

MEDIA RELEASE

Four LHINs Partner on Mental Health and Addiction Pilot Project *'Doorways' to information means better care for patients*

May 27, 2010 -- Four of Ontario's fourteen LHINs are working together with Ontario's Community Care Information Management (CCIM) leads to establish a portal for service providers to securely share and access accurate health information electronically.

The project entitled, "**Doorways -- Strengthening connections between providers and clients**" is being piloted for mental health consumers and health care providers. It is funded by eHealth Ontario and is part of the Ontario government's eHealth agenda. The North East LHIN is leading the project with full participation from the North West, Champlain and North Simcoe Muskoka LHINs. Three hospitals are providing supporting infrastructure, including; The Ottawa Hospital, Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH), and Sault Area Hospital.

The pilot project allows assessment information to flow with patients as they move across health care settings to get the care they need. The technology facilitates a common understanding of a patient's needs and helps to improve the continuity of care across providers. Authorized health service providers will have access to assessments from one single access point for a patient when determining treatment and care.

This LHIN-directed initiative is expected to help deliver enhanced health care capabilities to the providers and their patients; while also informing broader regional e-health portal planning for the LHINs.

QUOTES

"This pilot will provide the 'proof of concept' that we can build on for an electronic health record," adds North East LHIN CEO, Louise Paquette. "This information sharing tool will provide a secure single point of access for multiple pieces of information while upholding client privacy."

"Building an electronic health record becomes closer with each project of collaboration and consolidation of information that can be accomplished," adds Rodney Burns, CIO, North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN.

Participants in the Erie St. Clair pilot are already finding benefits from the Integrated Assessment Record (IAR). "This pilot offers not only information through a single access point, it allows us to see trends in care and episodes which is extremely valuable in serving this community of clients," states Tamison Doey MD, Chief of Psychiatry Hôel Dieu Grace Hospital and Adjunct Professor and Program Coordinator, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Page 2 of 2

“We are excited about this project because it is focused on the needs of the consumer,” says Liz Michaud, Supervisor of Mental Health Services in the Pembroke area of the Champlain region. “The consumer helps with their own assessment. The consumer is involved in developing their own care plan, and we, as clinicians, know that the quality of care and the services that we provide are meeting their needs because of the strong connection with the consumer. We want to thank the Champlain LHIN for its support of this important initiative.”

“The North West LHIN is excited by the collaboration between the health service partners involved as they move the Doorways project forward”, says Brian Ktytor, Chief Information Officer. “All of the organizations involved recognize the potential benefits that this initiative will bring for the clients, the health care providers and the system as a whole. The North West LHIN is committed to support eHealth Strategy innovations like the Doorways Project to enhance system-wide integration and improve the health care system.”

FACTS

- The four LHINs: North East, North West, Champlain and North Simcoe Muskoka, represent over 20 per cent of Ontario’s population and more than 50 per cent of its geography.
- This project builds on CCIM’s new provincial Integrated Assessment Record (IAR) project piloted in Erie St. Clair and Central West LHINs. The IAR project enables assessment information to follow the client across care settings to facilitate a common understanding of a person’s needs and helps to improve the continuity of care across community and hospital settings.
- Information being shared is in a secure portal and includes assessment information from Ontario Common Assessment of Needs (OCAN) for outpatient community-based mental health and addictions programs and the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) for mental health inpatients. The information is accessible to providers along the path that patients typically traverse from emergency rooms, in-patient psychiatric services providers, community mental health services and primary care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

North East LHIN: Cynthia Stables; 705-845-1887

North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN: Lorraine Lynch; 705-326-7750, ext. 218

Champlain LHIN: Carole Ouellette; 613-747, ext. 3238

North West LHIN: Kelly Arnold; 807-343-5549, ext 2030

-30-