Communiqué on Hospital Pharmacy Peer Group – July 2015

This quarterly communiqué provides updates on efforts underway by the North East LHIN Hospital Pharmacy Peer Group (HPPG) to improve the quality of pharmacy care provided to patients across Northeastern Ontario's 25 hospitals.

The North East LHIN is working in partnership with the group to enhance patient care and target hospital pharmacy improvement opportunities. For the first time ever, face-to-face meetings are being held with pharmacy peers under the vision:

> *By 2025, the NE LHIN hospital pharmacies will be fully automated with integrated technology and staffed with registered professionals (either on site or virtual). Pharmacists will be integral members of all clinical teams and programs and support patient care from admission through discharge. The hospitals will support and collaborate with each other so that each hospital meets all accreditation and Ontario College of Pharmacy standards and achieves maximum efficiency.*

"It's an ambitious objective, but this group is focused and ready to share resources to improve care for Northerners on topics like pharmacist coverage, accreditation policies and procedures and technology," says Tamara Shewciw, Project lead and the NE LHIN's Chief Information Officer and eHealth Lead.

This year, the group is working on sharing policies and procedures for all hospital pharmacies across the region. This project alone will enhance patient safety by reducing medication dispensing errors, will help to ensure patients' medications are processed more efficiently and will minimize the number of patient adverse drug reactions due to a more consistent approach to drug use in hospitals.

A face-to-face meeting of the Northeastern Hospital Pharmacy Peer Group (HPPG) was held in June. HPPG members are given below:

Hospital Name	Representative	Title
Blind River District Health Centre	Katie Bird	Pharmacist
Englehart and District Hospital	Gail Renaud	Pharmacy Tech
Espanola General Hospital	Jane Battistelli	Director of Clinical Services
Health Sciences North	Frances Brisebois	Clinical Supervisor, Pharmacy
Hôpital de Mattawa Hospital	Tanya Belanger	Manager Patient Services/NP
Hopital de Smooth Rock Falls Hospital	Chantal Tessier	Chief Nursing Officer
Hôpital Notre Dame Hospital (Hearst)	Lynda G. Morin	Chief Nursing Officer
Hornepayne Community Hospital	Joan Saban	Director of Patient Care Services
Kirkland and District Hospital	Lauren O'Connor	Pharmacist
Lady Dunn Health Centre	Kadean Ogilvie	Clinical Director
Manitoulin Health Centre	Paula Fields	Nurse Manager
MICs - Anson, Bingham & Lady Minto	Marc-Andre Gravel	Pharmacist
North Bay Regional Health Centre	Kathryn McLenaghan	Manager, Pharmacy Services
Sault Area Hospital	Michelle Nogalo	Manager of Pharmacy
Sensenbrenner Hospital	Ralph Schmidt	Pharmacy Manager
Services de santé Chapleau Health Services	Anne Morris	Director of Clinical Services
St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre of Sudbury	Kari Gervais	VP Clinical Services
St. Joseph's General Hospital Elliot Lake	Connie Free	Chief Nursing Executive, Director of Clinical Services
Temiskaming Hospital	Nancy Caldwell	Pharmacist (& Acting Manager)
Timmins and District Hospital	Natalie Roy	Pharmacist Coordinator
Weeneebayko Area Health Authority	Betty Cheechoo	Pharmacy Tech
West Nipissing General Hospital	Jo-Ann Lennon-Murphy	Chief Nursing Officer
West Parry Sound Health Centre	Anne Litkowich	Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Patient & Family Centred Care
NE LHIN	**Joanne Weingartner**	**Pharmacist – Consultant**
NE LHIN	**Marie Paluzzi**	**Pharmacist - Volunteer Consultant**

In the span of just a few months this spring, the HPPG accomplished a great deal and created a positive buzz across the region. HPPG is focusing on four projects:

1. Creating a shared space of medication-related common protocols (policies, procedures and guidelines) in the NE LHIN
2. Enhancing patient access to chemotherapy services closer to home (at smaller hospitals)
3. Exploring group purchasing of pharmacy coverage to help smaller hospitals have more consistent coverage
4. Support for use of the Meditech Pharmacy Module to help with medication management for hospital patients to improve safety.

Updates were provided by each work group at the June meeting:

- **Common Protocols Work Group**
  - The group is currently working on a portal designed to be a common repository of all pharmacy-related protocols and procedures. This will be a shared resource among all 25 hospitals in the NE LHIN.

- **Chemotherapy Services at Satellite Sites Work Group**
  - A survey was sent out to identify the challenges and opportunities faced by hospitals within the North East region in regards to chemotherapy services. The group will be working closely with Cancer Care Ontario to address some of the concerns identified through the survey.

- **Group Purchase – Pharmacy Coverage Work Group**
  - A current state analysis of pharmacy coverage and services in the NE LHIN was conducted via survey. A gap analysis will be conducted based on the survey results and possible models will be developed to address the gaps.

- **Meditech – Ongoing Support Work Group**
  - Getting a late start in May, the group hopes to conduct a current state analysis of Meditech implementation across the NE LHIN. The group will also be working closely with NEON and HSN to address any gaps in implementation identified.

For more information about the HPPG's efforts, please contact Tamara Shewciw at the NE LHIN, 705-256-1366 or tamara.shewciw@lhins.on.ca.