

MEDIA RELEASE

Dr. Reena Dhatt – New Clinical Quality Lead for North East LHIN

May 3, 2016 -- Dr. Reena Dhatt, a family physician based in Sudbury, is the successful candidate for the position of the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) Clinical Quality Lead.

In this position, Dr. Dhatt will align the quality agenda, and accelerate efforts to promote a culture of quality that will enable improved patient outcomes.

Dr. Dhatt will have a dual reporting relationship to the Chief of Clinical Quality at Health Quality Ontario (HQO) and the CEO of the North East LHIN. Through the establishment of a Regional Quality Table, HQO and the NE LHIN are collaborating to advance clinical quality in a coordinated way to support improvement to patient care. Dr. Dhatt will chair the North East LHIN Regional Quality Table.



“Dr. Dhatt has been an asset in the past year as the North East LHIN’s Primary Care Lead for the Sudbury/Manitoulin/Parry Sound Hub,” said Louise Paquette, CEO of the North East LHIN. “In this new position as Clinical Quality Lead, she will continue to work to improve the outcomes and experience of patients in the North East by focusing on quality among all health care practitioners.

“The Regional Quality Tables are important forums for bringing together health system leaders to discuss local quality issues, and the Clinical Quality Leads are critical to their success,” says Lee Fairclough, Vice President, Quality Improvement. “Dr. Dhatt’s deep rooted commitment to the community, passion for health equity and vast experience across health sectors made her a clear choice for the North East Clinical Quality Lead.”

Dr. Reena Dhatt is a family physician who has been in active family practice for the last 25 years. In true Northern style, her experience not only includes care of a large and complex practice, but also covers emergency medicine, hospital inpatient care and long-term care. She serves as a general practitioner allergist for the region and is certified in Travel Medicine and Occupational Medicine. As an Associate Professor, Family Medicine at Northern Ontario

School of Medicine (NOSM), she has had an opportunity to teach undergraduate and postgraduate learners as well as assist in curriculum and policy development as the co-Site Director Postgraduate, NOSM.

“It is a challenging time in medicine and the only pathway to success from a healthcare perspective is through collaboration and education. I am excited to join a team of visionaries who understand the impact of health policy on the practice of medicine at a local level. The team is also incredibly receptive to understanding the unique dynamics of a Northern Practice whether urban, rural or remote and adapting priorities to have meaningful impact at a community level,” said Dr. Dhatt. “I am grateful to be given this opportunity to network with the entire North to understand what it is that we think quality in medicine is and how we can all be a part of a system that values health equity, data integrity and high quality health care.”

Last year, she became the Primary Care LHIN lead for Sudbury where she was engaged in the development of Health Links, community networking and infrastructure planning for primary care. Her board work includes postings at Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association and Physician Clinical Teacher’s Association) as well as at the Ontario Medical Association on the Member Services’ Board. She is the lead for the Sudbury Family Medicine LEG. She also serves as a peer lead for Ontario MD.

Dr. Dhatt describes herself as a local doctor with deep roots in her community and region. She is excited to work with other health care providers in her region who are passionate about health equity, have a commitment to quality, and believe that technology may make our journey easier. She is a true Northerner who bikes, hikes, golfs, snowboards, cross-country skis and embraces the virtues of a sauna.

Facts:

- LHINs have worked with HQO to establish Regional Quality Tables. Members of the table will include individuals from diverse sectors such as hospital, long term care, primary care, as well as home and community care.
- The mandate of the NE LHIN Regional Table will be to: develop and implement an integrated regional quality plan; engage providers in a culture of quality care; improve partnerships; foster innovation; build capacity; and enhance reciprocal communication and knowledge exchange.
- HQO is the provincial advisor on the quality of health care in Ontario, evaluating the effectiveness of health care technologies and services, providing evidence-based recommendations, reporting to the public on the quality of the health system, and supporting the spread of quality improvement throughout the system. Visit www.hqontario.ca for more information.

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