

Quality care that is patient centred, timely, efficient, effective, equitable and safe.

CT Project WDH

The CT Project team finalized the negotiation with Siemens and were successful to reduce the equipment cost by \$99,000 and the 10 year service agreement by approximately \$350,000. The PO has been issued and the business case submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Electronic Health Record Update

The OneChart Phase II project has been busy. In September, both sites went live with Camera Capture. This new feature allows our team to capture images, using an iPad or phone app, and transfer the image into the electronic patient record. Examples of what this feature is used for includes wounds, surgical sites, skin abnormalities, etc. These photos have already proven to be extremely helpful for patient care.

Oncology

Multiple discussions have ensued with London Health Sciences Center – Verspeeten Family Cancer Center (LHSC) regarding potential service model changes with a stated purpose to increase more access to care closer to home and increase the volumes of clients able to access timely Cancer care at LHSC. Further clarity regarding the proposed model is needed and satellites have identified key issues of capacity in the satellites, appropriate scope for the provider, and consultation with patients.

A workplace that nurtures individual and collective potential.

Congratulations to the WDH Pharmacy Team for completing our sterility testing. This testing and capability will allow us to support additional Oncology patients who were unable to use our facilities due to our dose rounding of chemotherapy medication. We previously rounded our doses to avoid costly wastage of medication. Now we are able to reseal the medication which allows us to give more accurate doses, serve a larger group of patients and avoid waste. Great initiative by the department to support patient care!

Physician Recruitment

We are pleased to announce our Practice Ready Ontario physician, Dr. Bazazo, has arrived in Wingham! Dr. Bazazo will set up his practice over the next few months and will also have admitting privileges at the Wingham District Hospital. We are very fortunate to have him join our team.

A sustainable and resilient environment that is here for future generations.

Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) Reports

The OHA highlighted two reports during the meeting. The first, “Projected patterns of illness in Ontario”, focuses on a study of the future burden of illness in Ontario over the next twenty years. The report suggests 1 in 4 adults over the age of 30 will be living with a major illness in 2040 and will require significant hospital care. This trend is the result of a combination of an aging population, high levels of chronic disease risk factors, structural and socioeconomic determinants and growing levels of chronic disease that will place tremendous pressure on health systems. The report signifies the importance of chronic disease prevention, early detection and continuous management and highlights the need for quality primary health care and ambulatory care coordination to manage this burden and preserve acute care capacity. Short term options to increase health system capacity include increased use of different care models and more community led outreach programming. Long term solutions will require substantial new investments in physical infrastructure to support changes in practice and a shift in investment to prevention and early intervention, new treatments and technologies such as next generation pharmaceuticals, digital innovations, and virtual care. It is clear changes are needed in the health sector.

The second report, “OHA – Hospital Efficiency Report 2024” compared hospital efficiencies across Canada. Ontario hospitals are the most efficient in Canada. Ontario hospital budgets reflect the lowest hospital expenditure per capita by a provincial government. They have accomplished this by having the lowest hospitalization rate in Canada, the lowest average length of stay in acute care hospitals, lowest cost of a hospital inpatient stays in Canada and a low rate of hospital beds per 1000 population. Hospitals have achieved these results while maintaining quality of care over time and ensuring a responsible approach to compensation. The report ends with a brief overview of the system capacity issues the hospitals in Ontario are facing. Hospitals are facing record setting emergency department wait times, number of patients waiting in the ED to be admitted, number of ALC patients waiting in hospital for more appropriate services elsewhere and a growing and aging population. Thoughtful evidenced based and collaborative approach with Ministry and a focus on harnessing the power of innovation and technology, maintaining access and quality of care and financial stability across the continuum are key priorities.