

## WWLHIN*news*

### **Partnership Initiative Focuses on Quality Care for ALC Patients**

CAMBRIDGE, ON – The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network's (WWLHIN) Transitional Care Program has expanded with the opening of 35 interim long-term care beds. With the support of Cambridge Memorial Hospital (CMH), Lutheran Homes Kitchener-Waterloo will operate the beds on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor at the Cambridge hospital. The first residents will arrive during the week of January 31. This brings the total of WWLHIN funded transition beds to 118 for the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, with an investment of \$3.9 million.

The transitional care beds are in place for a specified time period until the full complement of the new 332 long-term care beds open across Waterloo Wellington. In November 2010, 96 new beds opened at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph. The next 96 will open at Village of Riverside Glen (Oakwood Retirement Communities), Guelph, in Spring 2011. A further 96 will open at Hilltop Manor (peopleCare Inc.), Cambridge, and 44 will be added at Pinehaven Nursing Home, Waterloo, over the next two years.

The WWLHIN implemented the transitional care program, which includes putting additional beds in place, to assist with the flow of alternate level of care (ALC) patients from hospital beds to their final destination. ALC refers to those people whose active treatment phase in hospital is complete and their health care professional has recommended a more appropriate care setting such as long-term care, hospice or home with supports. This program was introduced in 2008 - 2009 with 40 beds and a \$1.9 million investment. Due to the success of the transitional care program, \$4.1 million was allocated to the program for 2009 - 2010, for 73 beds.

The transitional care program is one of a number of short and long-term strategies implemented by the WWLHIN and local health service providers to support the delivery of quality care for our senior residents in the right place, and by the right provider. The current ALC rate for the WWLHIN is 14.77%, which is greatly reduced from the high of 27% in November 2008.

### **QUOTES**

"With the addition of new long-term care beds, an investment of \$35 million into Aging at Home initiatives, implementation of new services, and program modifications, there has been a positive impact in support of the delivery of quality of care within the local health system to reduce the number of ALC days in local hospitals," said Bruce Lauckner, Interim CEO, WWLHIN. "Our combined efforts are about providing quality care for local patients, in the right setting, by the right provider."

"Trinity Village looks forward to partnering with the WWLHIN and CMH to deliver these much needed interim long-term care beds. It gives us great satisfaction to contribute to the community, by freeing up acute hospital beds for those needing them, and meeting the needs of individuals waiting in hospital for long-term care," said Caroline Verleyen, President & CEO, Lutheran Homes Kitchener-Waterloo.

"We are pleased to welcome Trinity Village to CMH. Additional capacity for long-term care in Cambridge is essential and this will enable us to provide more acute care hospital services to the Cambridge community," says Patrick Gaskin, President and CEO, CMH.

## QUICK FACTS

LHINs are the only organizations in Ontario that bring together health care partners from the following sectors - hospitals, community care, community support services, community mental health and addictions, community health centres and long-term care - to develop innovative, collaborative solutions leading to more timely access to high quality services for the residents of Waterloo Wellington and Ontario. By supporting these important partnerships, LHINs are ensuring that Ontarians have access to an effective and efficient health care system that delivers improved health care results and a better patient experience.

The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network is responsible for planning, integrating, coordinating and providing funding to 79 health service providers including hospitals, long-term care homes, community support services, community health centres, the Community Care Access Centre and community mental health and addictions agencies in Waterloo Region, Wellington County and south Grey County. The WWLHIN operates an annual health care budget of close to \$876 million.

## LEARN MORE

Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network - [www.wwlhin.on.ca](http://www.wwlhin.on.ca) and [www.wwpartnersinhealth.ca](http://www.wwpartnersinhealth.ca)

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Attachments:

Backgrounder - Transitional Care Program - Funding Allocations  
Backgrounder - Transitional Care Program - 2010 - 2011 Bed Placements

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