

For Immediate Release

Thursday, October 12, 2006

Canadian Patient Safety Week is Coming!

Prepare to celebrate improvements to patient safety in Canada

From October 20 to 27, healthcare workers across Canada will be celebrating their progress in making Canada's healthcare system among the very safest in the world. An initiative of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), Canadian Patient Safety Week 2006 will be celebrated in hospitals and healthcare settings from coast to coast to coast.

"By celebrating Canadian Patient Safety Week together, we not only recognize our achievements and the people who made them possible," explains Phil Hassen, CEO of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, "we also take the time to remember that patient safety remains a top priority for healthcare workers, our patients and their families."

Now in its second year, the theme for this year's Week is hand hygiene, with an emphasis on how cleaning hands well and often is a proven way to reduce the spread of infections in healthcare settings.

"Healthcare professionals recognize the important contribution hand hygiene makes to patient safety," says Phil Hassen. "Canadian Patient Safety Week is an ideal time to share the news of our progress in this area and to reach out to healthcare workers and remind them of the importance of cleaning hands well and often in order to prevent infections and save lives."

The CPSI and Canadian Patient Safety Week Advisory Committee have worked closely with Canada's Infection Control Group (the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation, and the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association) to develop the Week's campaign messages and materials. The combined efforts of these groups will help ensure that Canadian Patient Safety Week coordinates with, and supports an emerging national hand hygiene campaign now being planned by the Infection Control Group.

For more information on Canadian Patient Safety Week 2006, the many regional and local initiatives already planned and how you can join in the celebrations, please visit www.patientsafetyweek.ca.

From October 23-27 there will be a display at the Northumberland Hills Hospital where you can learn more about the Canadian Patient Safety Week and the importance of handwashing.

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