



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northumberland Hills Hospital first in Canada to receive three-year accreditation for Bone Mineral Density program

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, May 26, 2008 – The Northumberland Hills Hospital learned last month that it was the first hospital in Canada to receive accreditation from the new Canadian Bone Mineral Densitometry (CBMD) Accreditation Program.

The CBMD Accreditation Program, a new project administered in its pilot phase by the Ontario Association of Radiologists (OAR), was designed to evaluate personnel qualification, equipment performance and the effectiveness of quality control measures in Bone Mineral Densitometry services. NHH was one of twenty facilities selected for participation in the pilot process launched in 2007.

A thorough analysis of all the elements necessary to provide a high quality Bone Mineral Densitometry (BMD) service, the CBMD accreditation process ensures that BMD examinations are performed with the highest possible precision and that useful and consistent information is reported to referring physicians.

On April 5, 2008, Christa Rebot, a medical radiation technologist (MRT) at NHH, accepted the accreditation certificate on the hospital's behalf at a presentation made at an OAR Bone Mineral Densitometry Accreditation seminar. Earlier this month Ms. Rebot was presented with the hospital's prestigious Excellence in Leadership Award for her work on the rigorous accreditation process.

"While accreditation in mammography has been around for quite some time, BMD Accreditation is a fairly new challenge," Ms. Rebot explains. "The challenge to obtain BMD accreditation was initiated by Dr. Frank Marrocco, Medical Director of Diagnostic Imaging, who is always striving for excellence. Dr. Julien Chen, the Medical Director of BMD at NHH, also supported me throughout the process to make it happen, together with the Director of our department, Ian Moffat, and the technologists on our team."

The accreditation process involved the submission of a 350-page application for review by a panel comprised of a radiologist, a physicist and a technologist. Included in the substantial document were samples of NHH's BMD scans and radiologist reports, quality control data, a physicist's on-site report, as well as policies and procedures related to the hospital's BMD program.

About BMD examinations – Bone Mineral Density scanning is an enhanced form of X-ray technology that is usually performed on the lower spine and hips to measure the strength of bones. It is the single most powerful predictor of fracture risk in persons suspected of having osteoporosis or reduced bone density. Osteoporosis Canada reports that the disease affects 1.4 million Canadians, occurring in one in four women and one in eight men over the age of fifty. The disease causes bones to become thinner, more fragile and more likely to break. The goal of a BMD scan is to reduce the incidence of fractures in the community by identifying those who are most at risk.

About the BMD service at NHH – NHH's BMD service opened in 2001 and today completes approximately 2,500 examinations a year. The unit is located in the Clay and Elaine Elliott Women's Health Centre on the first floor of the hospital. The team responsible for its operation includes six technologists and three radiologists. As the first Canadian facility to receive the coveted accreditation, NHH has been asked to share BMD data application and procedure templates with other hospitals. NHH's templates will be used as a model for other hospitals to follow, demonstrating the hospital's commitment to leadership and excellence both for the benefit of patients within our community, and health organizations beyond.

More information about BMD is available on the Patient Services section of the NHH Web site, www.nhh.ca.

For more information on the recent BMD accreditation, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed acute care hospital delivers a broad range of core services, including medical/surgical care, complex/long-term care, rehabilitation, palliative care, obstetrical care and intensive care. NHH also sponsors a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs over 500 people and is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.