



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

*inspiring strength, dignity and compassion*

## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NHH confirms successful recruitment of new Vice President, Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive – Helen Brenner to join hospital team January 19, 2009**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Thursday, December 11, 2008** – In a memo to board members, community physicians and staff on Wednesday morning, Robert Biron, President and CEO of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH), announced the name of the hospital's new Vice President, Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive.

“I am pleased to announce the search committee’s recommendation of Helen Brenner to the role of VP, Patient Services, effective January 19, 2009,” said Robert Biron. “Finding a suitable candidate for this vacant position was a priority for me on my own arrival one month ago, and I’m very pleased that we have found an excellent fit between our hospital’s needs and Helen’s leadership skills.”

Currently the Director of the Regional Nephrology System at Lakeridge Health Corporation in Oshawa, Helen Brenner brings with her a broad range of skills gathered both on the job and through her continued education. A Registered Nurse by profession, her credentials also include a Master’s in Business Administration and an Advanced Graduate Diploma in Management from Athabasca University. She is a member of the College of Nurses of Ontario, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, the Renal Administrative Leaders’ Network of Ontario, the Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists and the European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association.

Prior to her current position leading the Regional Nephrology System out of Lakeridge Health (2001 to present), Helen was the Medical System Director at Markham Stouffville Hospital (1990-2001). In this role she was responsible for the strategic, financial, utilization, quality and resource management for a broad range of medical departments, including Intensive Care (ICU/CCU), Complex Care, Ambulatory Care, Palliative Care and Inpatient Rehab, in addition to three hospital-wide services, namely pharmacy, drug utilization and respiratory care. Prior to joining Markham Stouffville, Helen spent six years at Wellesley Hospital in successively more responsible positions in the area of Medical ICU/CCU and served as the Nursing Unit Administrator of the facility’s Cardiology Unit.

Helen's in-hospital work has been complemented by her service on a variety of committees and boards, including:

- Member, Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic Chronic Kidney Disease Working Group (2008)
- Chair, Renal Administrative Leaders' Network of Ontario (2007-current)
- Chair, Board of Directors, Hospice Durham (2007-2008)
- Member, CE LHIN Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Steering Committee (2006 – current)
- Assistant Professor, University of Ontario Institute of Technology (2005-current)
- Member, Durham Haliburton Kawartha and Pine Ridge District Health Council, End Stage Renal Disease Review Steering Committee (2004)

"I am thrilled to join Northumberland Hills Hospital," said Helen Brenner. "The opportunity to continue to work within the region of the Central East Local Health Integration Network in a role with a challenging breadth and depth of responsibilities is very appealing to me."

"Helen brings to her new role eighteen years of health care leadership experience, including strong strategic planning, quality, risk and resource management skills," said Robert Biron. "Her passion for health care is readily apparent and I am confident that she will continue to lead NHH's culture of quality, patient-centred care."

For more information, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto: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 services, including emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, complex/long-term care, rehabilitation, palliative care and obstetrical care. A variety of ambulatory care clinics are also offered at NHH. In addition to these, 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 close to 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca).