



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Blueprint for ‘One Acute Care Network’ in the Central East LHIN released –
NHH encouraged by proposed improvements to higher level services closer to
home, and looks forward to further demonstrating local hospital’s core strengths
within the CE LHIN family**

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, February 17, 2009 – The Clinical Services Plan (CSP) Steering Committee presented its report to the Board of Directors of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) at a meeting in Ajax earlier today. Go to the CSP page on the Central East LHIN website (<http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca>) where a copy of the full report is expected to be published shortly together with a PowerPoint deck summarizing its recommendations.

Today's report release marks the end of the first phase of a process which has brought together more than 150 physicians, nurses and health care professionals from across the Central East LHIN to provide input to the Steering Committee on service delivery in five clinical areas: Thoracic Care, Cardiac Care, Vascular Care, Maternal, Child and Youth Care and Mental Health and Addiction.

An analysis of “current state” and “future state” needs, the report is a synthesis of findings and the ideas brought forward by the participants and the CSP Steering Committee. It outlines how the Central East LHIN can plan for and fund selected hospital services in the programs noted above based on the location of the patient population and support patient access to the best medical care, equipment and highly skilled providers. The report also serves as a blueprint that Central East LHIN hospitals can use to guide service delivery planning now and into the future.

Said Northumberland Hills Hospital President and CEO Robert Biron: “NHH was pleased to be one of the nine community hospitals to participate in the Clinical Services Plan project. We look forward to reviewing in detail the final report presented today. The principles guiding the project at its launch are shared by our staff and physicians. At the top of this list is a continued dedication to working together with our peers and communities across the LHIN to improve quality and safety in the most efficient way possible.”

With regard to the implications for NHH, Chief of Staff Dr. David Broderick said: "In the case of specialized services such as thoracic, cardiac and vascular services, it's my expectation that the report contains recommendations that will bring a higher level of services closer to home and in a more coordinated fashion with our partner hospitals." A member of the CSP Steering Committee, Dr. Broderick served as the rural representative from the CE LHIN Primary Care Working Group.

Maternal, Child and Youth Care recommendations are, as well, expected to provide NHH with the opportunity to further enhance patient services closer to home. Advanced level in-patient neonatal care is expected to be enhanced in the LHIN, as are services dedicated to in-patient paediatric care.

"Among the report's recommendations in the area of Maternal, Child and Youth Care is the recommendation that NHH (as well as Lakeridge Health-Port Perry and Ross Memorial Hospital) regularly assess our obstetrical programs. We are very confident in our obstetrical program at NHH today and we welcome the opportunity to continue to demonstrate to our community and our funders the ongoing quality and viability of core programs such as obstetrics at NHH," said Biron. "With 471 births in fiscal year 2006-2007 and 541 in 2007-2008, NHH is responding to a growing demand. We expect to deliver over 600 babies when the current fiscal year concludes on March 31, 2009, making ours a core service within the Central East LHIN."

Community members are encouraged to review the full CSP report and its recommendations, and submit their feedback via the Central East LHIN through an on-line survey being posted to the CSP section of the CE LHIN website later today (see link above).

For more information from Northumberland Hills Hospital, please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or igillard@nhh.ca; for information from the Central East LHIN, please direct questions to Katie Cronin-Wood at 1-866-804-5446, ext. 218 or katie.croninwood@lhins.on.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.