



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New radiation consultation service now available at NHH

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, December 2, 2013 – Cancer patients often face numerous visits to specialists and services in other regions. Not all of these visits involve treatment; many are consultations with oncologists regarding the treatment itself, and related follow-up appointments.

Effective this fall, local cancer patients now have the option to meet with a radiation oncologist for consultation and follow-up purposes at Northumberland Hills Hospital.

The latest in a series of local patient benefits related to NHH's partnership with the Central East Regional Cancer Program through the Durham Region Cancer Centre at Lakeridge Health, the new Radiation Consultation Clinic is offered each Monday in NHH's Lions and Lioness Chemotherapy Clinic at 1000 DePalma Drive. A radiation oncologist from the Durham Region Cancer Centre comes to NHH to meet with patients on-site, helping them prepare for radiation treatment, and monitoring patients' health during and after treatments.

As a result of this new service enhancement, many patients will only need to travel to the Durham Region Cancer Centre in Oshawa for their radiation treatments.

"We now offer radiation consultation and follow-up appointments for many Northumberland residents right here in their own community. This is an important step in creating a regional health system where people get the care they need close to home," said Tom McHugh, Regional Vice President of the Central East Regional Cancer Program.

"Our patients have told us that anything we can do to minimize their travel time is a good thing. Chemotherapy patient visits increased at NHH between 2009/2010 and 2012/13 from 2,929 to 5,005 (77%), due in large part to our partnership with the Durham Region Cancer Centre. These are patients who would have previously had to travel to other centres for their treatments. Radiation consultation is a natural extension to our Satellite Clinic's service offering. We are very pleased to be able to introduce this new service, again, thanks to this partnership with DRCC," said Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital's cancer services – The Cobourg Lions and Lioness Chemotherapy Clinic at Northumberland Hills Hospital is a satellite clinic of the [Durham Regional Cancer Centre at Lakeridge Health, Oshawa](#), and a participant in the Central East Regional Cancer Program (CERCP). In addition to the new oncology

consultation service, the NHH clinic offers chemotherapy and associated treatments to cancer patients living in Northumberland County. Referrals are accepted from anywhere in Ontario.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, and obstetrical care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care, rehabilitation and palliative care. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. 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 approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.

About the Central East Regional Cancer Program - The Central East Regional Cancer Program (CERCP) is one of 14 regional cancer programs in Ontario. The CERCP provides access to cancer care for 1.6 million people in the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). Our network of hospital partners includes the R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre at Lakeridge Health's Oshawa site, the Scarborough Hospital, Rouge Valley Health System, Northumberland Hills Hospital and Peterborough Regional Health Centre.

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