



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHH experiencing surge in acutely ill patients – Emergency Department wait time extremely long for non-urgent treatment

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTRY, Friday, December 28, 2012 - A significant surge in acutely ill patients at the Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) has meant that the hospital is currently operating at full capacity in both the Emergency Department (ED) and the inpatient units.

As a result, patients are being advised to expect longer than normal wait times at the NHH ED and encouraged to seek options other than the local Emergency Department for **non-urgent** conditions.

Alternate options to the NHH ED

For alternate options for medical care please contact your family physician's office or go to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ***Your Health Care Options*** website - <http://www.ontario.ca/healthcareoptions>.

Free access to a Registered Nurse is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Telehealth Ontario service. Contact Telehealth Ontario at: **1-866-797-0000 or (TTY): 1-866-797-0007**.

Updates will be shared with local media and posted to the hospital website at www.nhh.ca as required. Media inquiries may be directed to Jennifer Gillard, Director, Communications (905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca) or Robert Biron, President and CEO (905-377-7755 or rbiron@nhh.ca).

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.

- END -