



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ear, Nose, and Throat Services Expanding at NHH

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, February 27, 2020 — A new physician at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) will mean an increase in access close to home for patients needing ear, nose, or throat (ENT) related surgeries. Dr. Gabriel Fuoco, a specialist in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, began operating with the Surgical Services department at NHH to perform certain day surgeries one day a month as of February.

Dr. Fuoco has been the Division Head of ENT at Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) since completing his residency through the University of Toronto in 2004 and sees expanding his services to NHH as a way to further strengthen the relationship between the two hospitals and also reduce travel time for patients. He is particularly interested in the anatomy of the head and neck and appreciates the large variety of patients he is able to interact with and help through his chosen specialty.

“The Surgical Services team works hard to maximize the utilization of our operating rooms and to increase the services we offer in our community,” says Joanne Jury, Patient Care Manager, Perioperative and Ambulatory Care Services. “The addition of visiting specialists, like Dr. Fuoco, is one way we can do this.”

ENT surgical services have long been available at NHH. Most recently, they have been available with Dr. Gavin Rukholm, also a specialist in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at PRHC. Dr. Rukholm completed his residency in this specialty through McMaster University in 2013 and continues to operate at NHH.

The ENT services at NHH include adenoidectomy, tonsillectomy, rhinoplasty, myringoplasty, tympanoplasty, and septoplasty surgeries, as well as ventilating tubes. Patients in need of ENT services can be referred directly by their general practitioner.

With the addition of Dr. Fuoco, NHH will now have a total of 16 surgeons operating within its Surgical Services department. This increase will mean a growth in ENT services available in Northumberland County moving forward.

As well as ENT day surgeries, patients are able to receive surgical procedures at NHH in general surgery, gynecology, dentistry, plastic surgery, orthopedic scopes, urology, and ophthalmology.

Media contact: Jennifer Gillard, Senior Director, Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute

services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. 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 or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

- END -