NHH
Northumberland
Hills Hospital

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Northumberland Hills Hospital awarded HIMSS EMRAM Level 6 designation

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, November 25, 2026—Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is pleased to share that it has been awarded HIMSS 6 on the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model (EMRAM) scale, demonstrating significant progress against a strategic commitment to use digital tools to support safe, high-quality patient care.

HIMSS is a global, non-profit organization, dedicated to improving healthcare quality, safety, and efficiency through information technology and management systems. HIMSS adoption progresses along a 7-stage roadmap known as EMRAM, providing organizations, including hospitals, with a roadmap to continuously improve their electronic medical record adoption, clinical workflows, and data security.

“Being awarded HIMSS Stage 6 is a significant milestone in NHH’s digital health journey. We are the first hospital our size to achieve this designation in our region, and one of only a handful of medium-sized hospitals to reach this stage of maturity in the province. A HIMSS 6 designation reflects years of hard work and investment and confirms that we have moved beyond basic electronic documentation to use advanced clinical information systems to support care delivery, quality, and safety. I thank our teams across the hospital for their expertise in integrating new technologies and for their commitment to enhancing our digital management systems. These efforts have allowed NHH, working alongside our regional partners, to build a strong digital foundation as we work towards achieving a Level 7 designation,” said Susan Walsh, President and CEO of Northumberland Hills Hospital.

HIMSS leaders commended NHH for putting “Patients … at the forefront of decision-making” and highlighted key achievements including Barcode Medication Administration and “NHH’s ability to translate digital capability into sustained organizational change.”

HIMSS also commented on “[NHH’s] practical ability to combine local accountability with regional scale,” and the hospital’s use of external information to inform “…treatment planning and decision-making.”

For NHH clinicians and patients, the benefits of HIMSS Stage 6 include:

- Improved patient safety by offering advanced Clinical Decision Support (CDS) and closed-loop medication management that can help reduce medication errors, duplicate testing, adverse drug events, variation in clinical practice.
- Better quality of care by monitoring quality indicators in near real time, tracking outcomes more effectively and supporting standardized care pathways.
- Stronger data for decision-making by providing performance dashboards.
- Enhanced physician and clinician engagement by providing Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) and integrated clinical workflows.
- Readiness for artificial intelligence and advanced analytics by providing predictive risk modeling and capacity and flow analytics.
- Operational efficiency by reducing paper and manual processes and providing faster access to records.
- Benchmarking against leading hospitals through an internationally recognized HIMSS framework that allows organizations to benchmark and progress digital maturity against peer hospitals in Canada and globally.

Media inquiries:

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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, cancer and supportive care, dialysis and 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 67,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope, Alderville First Nation and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs more than 850 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians, midwives and volunteers. NHH is an active member of Ontario Health (East)—formerly the Central East Local Health Integration Network—and the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland. For more information, please visit nhh.ca or follow us on Facebook @northumberlandhillshosp and LinkedIn Northumberland Hills Hospital.