



## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NHH visitor parking fees below new \$10/day threshold, discounted weekly/monthly rates already available**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, January 19, 2016**—Ontario [announced yesterday](#) that it will be making hospital parking more affordable for thousands of patients and their caregivers.

While most hospitals rely on parking fee revenue to cover some portion of their overall costs, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has not, until now, regulated fees. Instead, fees have been set by individual hospitals based on local market rates and other factors, including location.

Effective October 1, 2016, hospitals in the province that currently charge more than \$10 a day for parking will be required to provide 5-, 10- and 30-day passes that are:

- discounted by 50 per cent off their daily rate;
- transferable between patients and caregivers;
- equipped with in-and-out privileges throughout a 24-hour period; and
- good for one year from the date of purchase.

The new directive will not, from a price point, apply to NHH, as the hospital's daily maximum parking rate is already below \$10/day. To offset cost for patients and visitors who have to be at NHH for extended periods of time, or visit regularly, NHH already offers weekly and monthly parking passes from its Finance Office, both of which allow for unlimited in-and-out privileges. The hospital will continue to do this, in step with the provincial directive.

While no changes are anticipated with regard to parking fees at NHH, the hospital will be reviewing its promotion of parking rates and discounts, and other details within the directive, in advance of the October 2016 deadline.

Said Linda Davis, President and CEO: "We understand there are challenges associated with parking and considerable difference between one hospital to the next. We agree that there is a need to ensure parking is affordable. That said, parking proceeds directly support patient care at NHH and, particularly over the last decade, the provincial government has encouraged hospitals to charge parking fees to supplement reductions in government funding. For NHH, visitor parking fees generated just over \$360,000 last year. NHH has policies in place to provide parking solutions that, we hope, strike a fair balance between the needs of patients and visitors, and the organization's operational needs."

For further details on current visitor parking rates at NHH, please see below.

**Daily variable visitor parking rate at NHH (effective since January 7, 2013)**

\$3.00 0 to ½ hour  
\$4.00 ½ hour to 1 hour  
\$5.00 1 hour to 2 hours  
\$6.00 2 hours to 3 hours  
\$8.00 3 hours to 4 hours  
\$9.00 > 4 hours

**Weekly visitor rate**

\$34.00 per week (pre-paid)  
\$10.00 one-time deposit for parking pass, refundable upon return of pass  
Unlimited in-and-out privileges

**Monthly visitor rate**

\$57.00 per month (pre-paid)  
\$10.00 one-time deposit for parking pass, refundable upon return of pass  
Unlimited in-and-out privileges

For more information: Jennifer Gillard, Director, Communications and Community Engagement, [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca) or 905-377-7757.

**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](http://www.nhh.ca) or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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