

Media Release

Growth, Emergency and Critical Care Funding Set To Improve Access and Reduce Wait Times At York Central Hospital

Richmond Hill, ON: This morning York Central Hospital learned that it will receive \$ 3,933,100 in new funding to increase access to urgently needed health care services for the people of Southwest York Region. Included in the almost \$4 million is \$3,572,500 in growth funding, \$177,000 (first year installment) to establish a Critical Care Response Team, and \$183,600 for Emergency Room Process Improvements. York Central Hospital is pleased to be the only hospital in York Region to be selected to receive \$1,037,300 in multi-year funding to establish a Critical Care Response Team (CCRT).

“Today’s funding announcement for York Central Hospital is a good first step toward lessening the financial pressures faced hospitals in high growth communities such as our own. We look forward to working closely with the Ministry to develop a long term funding strategy to continue to reduce wait times for essential medical services,” says Bruce Harber, Hospital President and CEO. “It is also a vote of confidence in the expertise of our Emergency and ICU teams and we are proud at the calibre of care provided by these highly skilled teams.”

“Our plan will ensure that emergency rooms stay open and will allow them to respond effectively and efficiently to local patient needs,” said MPP Mario G. Racco, Thornhill. “Our investment will strengthen our health care system from community-based care to our local hospitals.”

As part of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s Critical Care Strategy developed to help ease emergency room pressures, the Critical Care Strategy will receive \$90 million in annual funding to be implemented over the next three years and include the creation of CCRTs, increased Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed capacity and provide critical care training to 450 nurses per year. York Central Hospital was one of 5 additional hospitals that have met the criteria bringing the total to 31 hospitals across the province to have Ministry funded CCRTs.

About Critical Care Teams

CCRTs, also referred to as Medical Emergency Teams or Rapid Response Teams, bring the skills and expertise of physicians, nurses and respiratory therapists from the critical care unit beyond its four walls to meet the needs of patients at risk wherever they are in the hospital.

Comprised of specially trained critical care practitioners, CCRTs apply the principles of acute medicine and resuscitation across the hospital, and bring specialist knowledge and skills from the ICU directly to the patients’ bedside on a 24/7 basis.

In March 2004, Ontario funded a demonstration project establishing four CCRTs across two academic health sciences centres with two community hospitals. Preliminary results confirmed

previously documented experiences from other jurisdictions, supporting the benefits of CCRTs in Ontario, including:

- Reduction of in-patient arrests (by 30 per cent)
- Reduction of in-patient mortality (from 14% to 8%)
- Reduction in the ICU length of stay (from 7 to 2 days)
- Increased number of resuscitations on the ward

Critical Care Strategy for York Central Hospital

Critical care is a fundamental component in the efficient running of a hospital,” says Dr Hy Dwosh, ICU Director. “CCRTs mean earlier intervention resulting in better outcomes for the patient and fewer complications,” adds Dr. Dwosh.

At York Central Hospital, the team will be made up of an ICU Physician, an ICU nurse and a respiratory therapist. Under the guidance of Dr. Dwosh and Judy Cooper Froud, ICU Manager the CCRT will be available 24/7 to any unit within York Central Hospital.

Hospital staff involved in patient care can page the CCRT team for a consultation if they feel the patient’s health is deteriorating. Their rapid medical intervention can often prevent an ICU admission. The CCRTs have the ability to transform any hospital room into an interim intensive care room. They also do follow up on the condition of patients who have been recently discharged from the ICU to various care units throughout the hospital.

York Central Hospital Awarded Quality Improvement Fellowship

Earlier this month, York Central Hospital’s critical care department was awarded \$50,000 for participating in the Performance Improvement Coaching Team initiative developed to improve quality care and risk management in critical care.

“It is exciting for us to be an integral part of the new Critical Care Strategy. This funding will enable our staff to learn new skills that will help save lives,” says Ainsley Gillespie, Interim Vice President of Patient Care Programs.

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