

For immediate release:
Tuesday, August 31, 2010

Media Release

York Central Hospital Seeks Community Input on Hospital Improvement Plan

Hospital launches on-line survey to provide quick and easy way for the people of our community to comment on proposed improvement plan

RICHMOND HILL - As part of the Hospital's recently announced Operational Review and 100-day action plan, York Central Hospital is required to submit a Hospital Improvement Plan (HIP) to the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) today. A key element of the hospital's comprehensive community engagement strategy is the launching of an On-line Community Survey to seek community input on its proposed HIP. The survey goes live tomorrow and can be easily accessed on the home page of the hospital website at www.yorkcentral.on.ca

The HIP outlines the Hospital's proposed strategies to help the organization to achieve forecasted savings of \$10 million while maintaining its commitment to patient care quality and safety. The goals of the HIP include: achieving a transformational change within the organization by enhancing efficiency and accountability while protecting quality and safety; ensuring a clear alignment between strategic goals and operational realities; becoming a strong service provider; and achieving a balanced budget by the fourth quarter of this year.

YCH engaged front line staff, physicians, volunteers, key stakeholders and other health care system partners in the development of the action plans included in this HIP. The targets and opportunities are based on benchmarking analyses, recommendations from the operational review and internal expertise and experience. Based on the 100-day action plan, approved earlier this summer by the Hospital's Board of Directors, the HIP protects core programs and services, minimizes job loss wherever possible, and relies on productivity improvements with minimal bed closures and service reductions to deliver bottom line results. It emphasizes transformation of our organization's culture so that the changes are sustainable for the long term.

York Central Hospital's HIP, recently approved by its Board of Directors, will go to the Central LHIN Board for final review in late September. Until that time the hospital will continue to seek input from a wide variety of community stakeholders including community service agencies, neighbouring hospitals, patient and family advisory groups, local chambers of commerce, elected representatives and local community service groups as well as members of the community who respond to the on-line survey.

Quotes:

"We hope that the people of our community will take advantage of this convenient and easy way to review a brief summary of the Hospital Improvement Plan and provide their comments

and suggestions on our proposed strategies to achieve the necessary cost savings while maintaining our commitment to quality care,” says Interim President and CEO Jo-anne Marr. “Paper copies of the survey will also be available at the Inquiry Desk located in the Main Lobby of the Hospital located at 10 Trench Street here in Richmond Hill.”

“York Central Hospital and its Board of Trustees are committed to the principles of openness and transparency in all that we do including any strategies that may change the way in which we provide patient care services to the people of our community. We know that the people of our community are keenly interested our hospital's ability to continue to provide safe and accessible care today and for the needs of tomorrow as we move forward with our vision of a major regional health system with two hospital sites, including the existing hospital site in Richmond Hill and a new hospital site in Vaughan. We believe that this plan will transform our hospital into a highly efficient organization with the capacity to meet the needs of our rapidly growing community,” says Tony Genco, Chair, York Central Hospital Board of Directors.

- 30 -

Contacts: Melina Cormier
Communications and Public Affairs
mcormier@yorkcentral.on.ca
(905) 883-1212 ext. 7492

Liz Barnett
Communications and Public Affairs
ebarnett@yorkcentral.on.ca
(905) 883-1212 ext. 7490