

Building Health Care in PEC

PROJECT PARTNERS



PECMH Update: Taking the Next Steps

On August 27, project partners and other health care providers met in Prince Edward County to discuss the next steps towards building a new hospital in the County. Attendees included representatives from the Prince Edward Family Health Team; QHC administration, physicians and nurses; the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN); PECMH Foundation and Auxiliary; and community health care partners, such as Hospice Prince Edward and the Alzheimer's Society.

A key milestone in the planning process, the aim of the day was to update the work that was completed in 2010 and to build common understanding of the:

- Current and future health care needs and services of Prince Edward County, the surrounding communities and the region;
- Changes currently underway in health care and how to channel those into opportunities for PECMH;
- Vision for the new PECMH that will be a model for rural healthcare into the future, including our community partners and surrounding hospitals.

Throughout the session, common themes emerged around the changing demographic of the region and what key components are needed to build not only a stronger hospital to serve the community but also a stronger system of care. In particular, transitions between providers, and local access to services and transportation were noted

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as being key drivers to ensuring our patient population is well cared for.

Integration with other community services and cross-sector education were also brought forward as key enablers to building a strong system of care for Prince Edward County.

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The information collected from the session will be compiled and presented back to the PECMH Redevelopment Project working group. This information will assist the group in developing a strong business plan that will be presented to the LHIN and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for approval.

Broader public engagement sessions will be held further into the planning process to gather input on the vision for the new PECMH. The next milestone in the process is to finalize an updated Pre-Capital Submission document for LHIN Board approval this year.

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Hospital@Home: Innovations in Primary Care

PECMH continues to be one key component of the health care services available in Prince Edward County by providing 24 hour emergency services, inpatient care and diagnostic services closer to home. Local residents are also supported by a robust primary health care system that provides a wide range of services that don't require a hospital setting and can help support people to stay in their homes.

For example, one unique approach to care in PEC is the Hospital@Home (H@H) – a homegrown program that helps patients return home from hospital sooner or avoid a hospital admission altogether. The program is a two-year pilot project, until August 2015, and provides a higher level of home care for more acutely ill patients.

Led by the Prince Edward Family Health Team (PEFHT) in partnership with the South East Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), QHC, and Saint Elizabeth Health Care, the program has seen a total of 76 patients in its first year and absorbed 725 inpatient hospital days.

The H@H brings together a team of different health care providers who can work with the patient on a daily basis to ensure they are satisfied with the care they are receiving and coping well.

“Having a nurse and nurse practitioner visit every day allows us to evaluate a patient's care plan and modify as needed,” says Geri Claxton, H@H Team Leader. “We have daily teleconferences about patients that allow us to talk about their plan. It's developed into a really great partnership.”

H@H also works to educate the patient and their caregiver and connect them with the services they need.

The average length of stay for a patient on the program is nine days. Claxton noted that the real tell tale of H@H success will be in looking at patient readmissions to the emergency department.

For more information, or to inquire about eligibility to the H@H program, contact your physician with the PEFHT.

Quick Facts: PEC Demographics and Hospital Use

- Residents of Prince Edward County use PECMH for 32% of their inpatient care, but rely on PECMH for almost 75% of their emergency room care.
- Prince Edward County residents were admitted to hospitals 2,521 times between April 2013 and March 2014, with 806 of those admissions at PECMH. Residents also had over 17,500 emergency room visits in 2013/14 and 4,000 day surgeries.
- The population of Prince Edward County decreased slightly between the 2006 and 2011 censuses. The population growth for PEC is expected to total 3.4% over the next 10 years, compared to 15% or more in higher growth areas in Ontario.
- However, the population of residents aged 65 years or older continues to be higher than the provincial average. A total of 25.2% of PEC residents are 65 years or older, compared to the Ontario average of 14.6%.

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