



News and Updates from The Mississippi River Health Alliance

Almonte General Hospital • Fairview Manor
Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital
Lanark County Paramedic Service

Two Hospitals. One Goal. The very best care close to home.



The Mississippi River Health Alliance is almost two years old - and we are seeing the results of efforts to support a strong, coordinated system of care.

Together, our goal is to improve every patient and every resident's health care experience.

Here are just some of the positive changes:

- ✓ Shared roles in key areas such as Discharge Planning and Infection Control
- ✓ Aligned Quality Improvement Plans
- ✓ Improved transition processes and great support during busy periods
- ✓ Common policies and procedures
- ✓ Shared leadership team for greater synergy



Together, we are creating a strong voice for
local health care - close to home

Our consolidated Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for growth and development - with both shared and individual objectives. Close to 500 stakeholders were consulted and they told us to keep going and be bold!

The next step is to look at the clinical services provided at each hospital. With advice from physicians, staff, members of the Patient & Family Advisory Committees and external health system partners, we will identify opportunities for further alignment and better care for our patients and residents.

SPRING 2019

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Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of *Better Together*.

The Mississippi River Health Alliance was created almost two years ago and it is important to ensure that our local communities are kept informed about what is happening.

We are working together to improve care for everyone. One of the greatest benefits of working in both places is the opportunity to see best practices in each organization which can be shared with the other. We have already acted upon many opportunities to improve procedures, processes and policies and to implement additional shared resources.

And we'd like to hear your ideas too. Let's keep in touch. And don't forget to visit our websites for the latest updates.

Mary Wilson Trider
President & CEO

What's New

Getting Ready for Accreditation

From May 27 to 31, we are participating in a voluntary exercise where a team of healthcare professionals reviews our care and services against standards of excellence. The goal is to identify what is being done well and where we can improve. The process involves interviews with staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and families, Board and community members.



We are proud to have an opportunity to show off our great work and to learn from the survey team on how to improve the services we provide. We will share the results with you.



Emergency Department Update

Planning for the new Emergency Department in Carleton Place continues as we work with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure the very best facility for our local communities. We will be moving into stage three of the five-stage process shortly.

This phase — called Preliminary Design — includes the development of detailed designs, timelines and costs. Stakeholders, including our Patient & Family Advisory Committee, will have an opportunity for input regarding the new facility. In particular, we want to ensure our neighbours are involved in the planning.

For the latest updates on the new Emergency Department, please visit www.cpdmh.ca/redevelopment.

Supporting Women



Almonte General Hospital supports women throughout their lives. AGH is the only rural hospital in this region providing a full range of low-risk obstetrical services, including 24/7 coverage by an obstetrician and round-the-clock anesthetic/epidural services. Our multidisciplinary team includes Obstetrician/Gynecologists, Family Physicians, Midwives, specially-trained Nurses and Anesthetists.

Our Diagnostic Imaging team offers a full range of advanced Ultrasound services and patients can book ultrasound appointments by calling 613-256-2514 ext. 2114.

AGH also provides gynecological services including surgery and a colposcopy clinic. Dr. Bahaa Awwad offers a new specialized gynecological laser used to treat symptoms of vaginal atrophy which can occur during and after menopause or as a result of cancer treatment. Patients can be referred to Dr. Awwad by their family doctor or can contact his office directly at 613-256-8800. The procedure is not covered by OHIP but may be covered by medical insurance.

For more details, please visit our website at www.agh-fvm.com.

Welcoming New Doctors

AGH and CPDMH are welcoming new specialists to our region to care for patients and residents close to home. These new physicians will provide care for patients in Almonte, Carleton Place and surrounding areas.

- ◆ **Internists Dr. Natalie Keses and Dr. Jason Kiser** (pictured at right) are providing an outpatient clinic in Carleton Place
- ◆ **Respirologist Dr. Qasim Alikhan** is providing an outpatient clinic in Almonte
- ◆ **Dermatologist Dr. Mark Kerchoff** is providing an outpatient clinic in Carleton Place



Please speak with your family physician for a referral to any of these specialists.

A New Look



The Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS) is raising awareness about strokes with new F.A.S.T. decals on the ambulances. Recognize the signs of stroke with this acronym:

- Face**— Is it drooping?
- Arms** - Can you raise both?
- Speech** - Is it slurred or jumbled?
- Time** - Call 9-1-1 right away

Preventing Falls



Falls are the leading cause of injury among older adults in Canada.

At Fairview Manor, our Falls Prevention Team has developed strategies to keep residents safe.

Many of our strategies are relevant for people in their homes as well. For example, furniture should be placed to reduce clutter and potential tripping hazards. Non-skid socks, slippers and floor mats are also useful.

What is the MRHA?

The Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) formalizes the commitment of the two hospitals to work together. The goal is to improve each patient and resident's overall health care experience through a strong, coordinated system of care.

A joint committee provides a means for both Boards - as well as other healthcare partners - to work together to identify opportunities for better care. The committee makes recommendations to the two Hospital Boards.

Each hospital remains a separate corporation with its own Board, Foundation and Volunteers. Funds raised in each community stay in each community.

Together, we are creating a strong voice for local health care - close to home.



**Supporting our
Hospitals and
Community Health
Centres**
**May 23rd
6am - 6pm**

Almonte General Hospital/ Fairview Manor Foundation
Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Country Roads Community Health Centre Portland and Westport
Great War Memorial Hospital Foundation – Perth
North Lanark Community Health Centre – Lanark
Smiths Falls Community Hospital Foundation



We'd love to hear from you!

If you have questions about the Mississippi River Health Alliance, please ask. If you have compliments or concerns about the care you have received, please let us know.

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