

Technology Helping to Improve Access to Care

Mississauga Halton LHIN Investing in Nurses and Telemedicine Technology

July 19, 2012

News

More residents living in [Mississauga Halton LHIN](http://www.mississaugahaltonlhin.on.ca) will benefit from specialist care closer to home as the LHIN provides funding for three new telemedicine nurses. For patients this means improved access to health care, less travel and an increase in the types of health care services available at more than 21 sites across the Mississauga Halton LHIN.

The telemedicine nurses will use the latest technology for virtual patient consultations, assessments, one-to-one support, health teaching, and knowledge exchange. Using telemedicine, health care professionals are able to deliver clinical care using live, two-way videoconferencing systems and related diagnostic equipment.

This initiative also supports key Mississauga Halton LHIN priorities including strengthening primary health care and improving access to mental health and addiction programs. A new telemedicine host site located at The Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre is running the [TeleMental Health and Addictions Nursing Program](#) throughout the Mississauga Halton LHIN. The professionally trained mental health nurses will work in partnership with psychiatrists, hospitals, and other service providers connecting at telemedicine sites. They will work collaboratively with an individual's care team or community supports to plan and support patients with appropriate mental health services in familiar locations such as their own family health team, long term care facility or community organization.

Telemedicine services are made available through [Ontario Telemedicine Network](#) (OTN), a world leader in telemedicine. OTN facilitates the delivery of care for patients in hundreds of health care locations across the province, as well as distance education and meetings for health care professionals and patients. An independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the Government of Ontario, OTN is committed to improving access and quality of care.

Quotes:

"These new nursing positions and telemedicine sites are improving access to mental health and addictions care for the residents of Mississauga Halton LHIN. By investing in this technology and the people who use it, we can ensure the people of our community continue to receive high quality, seamless health care close to home."

- **Bill MacLeod, CEO, Mississauga Halton LHIN**

“This is great news for Mississauga. This announcement is possible because of the investments the McGuinty government has made as part of the Nursing Strategy of our Action Plan for Health Care. I am thrilled that more people in Mississauga Halton region will be able to have access to vital medical services. This will only help enhance the quality of health care in Mississauga and Halton.”

- Mississauga East-Cooksville MPP, Dipika Damerla

“The program will enhance the ability of existing services to support their clients who face challenges associated with mental health and addictions concerns. Collaboratively, we can improve the lives of the individuals we serve.”

- Dr. Geist, Chief of Mental Health System, Trillium sites,
The Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre

“Telemedicine tears down geographic barriers and increases access to much-needed health care services. For patients, it means greater peace of mind knowing that medical knowledge and expertise are easier to access with the help of this technology.”

- Dr. Ed Brown, CEO, Ontario Telemedicine Network

Quick Facts:

- Mississauga Halton LHIN is investing \$211,847 in new telemedicine nurses.
- There are 21 OTN sites and 35 active systems in the Mississauga Halton region.
- Two new telemedicine nurses have already been hired across Mississauga Halton LHIN, with one more nurse to be hired soon.
- In 2011/12, the use of telemedicine in Ontario has resulted in an estimated \$44 million in avoided travel costs.
- More than 3,000 health care professionals across more than 1400 sites in Ontario use OTN to deliver care to their patients. This year, OTN will deliver more than 200,000 patient visits.

Learn More

For more information about OTN, please visit: www.otn.ca.

For more information about Mississauga Halton LHIN, please visit: www.mhlin.on.ca.

Physicians or organizations with Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) capability, can refer youth, adults, or seniors with mental health and addiction concerns to the program at 416-521-4105 or download the fax referral form at www.trilliumhealthcentre.org/telementalhealth.

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