

Espanola's model of the NE LHIN Patient Transfer Service Pilot project coming in under budget

By DAWN LALONDE, MidNorthMonitor
Thursday, June 13, 2013 10:51:17 EDT AM

The North East Localized Healthcare Integration Network (NELHIN) acknowledged that big spaces means added challenges when it comes to transferring non-urgent patients between facilities and communities in the region.

At the time, almost all non-urgent inter-facility transfers in the region are by ambulance through Emergency Medical Services (EMS). However, since the transport of non-urgent patients is usually between hospitals or nursing homes, ambulances are not usually necessary.

This saw a new transportation model being explored.

The NE LHIN has funded three transportation pilot projects, one of which is in the Espanola area.

Each project involves a different model of patient transportation service. The idea is that the projects will be part of a larger review of non-urgent transportation to be done later this year. The review is aimed at finding a non-urgent patient transfer system.

So when the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board heard from Chief Michael MacIsaac, of the Manitoulin-Sudbury Emergency Medical Services that the model they use is coming in under budget it was good news.

They have been operating the patient transfer service for 11 weeks, said MacIsaac.

The average duration of a patient transfer from March 11 to April 30 is three hours, 55 minutes and they are averaging 2.2 transfers per day, which includes one-way and two-way transfers.

The total cost for eight weeks was \$29,993 while its budget was \$44,342. Total cost including pro-rated start-up is \$52,422 while \$61,342 was budgeted.

He further broke it down to a cost per hour of \$56.37. This is compared to the original board report estimate of \$63.96 per hour.

He explained the highest utilization is transfers between Espanola Regional Hospital to Health Sciences North (HSN) numbering 30, followed by Manitoulin Health Centre Little Current to HSN with 17. There were an additional 15 transfers between Manitoulin Health Centre Mindemoya to HSN.

In comparison, non-urgent activity for the same time period last year were 196. During this same period in 2013 there have been 115 transfers, a decrease of 41%.

Urgent inter-facility calls in 2012 were 127 compared to 98 in 2013, a decrease of 23%.
