

MEDIA RELEASE

NE LHIN Critical Care Lead Creates New ‘Life or Limb’ Policy to Benefit Local Health Care

Dr. David Boyle Completes LHIN Critical Care Lead Term; Dr. Derek Manchuk Becomes New NE LHIN Critical Care Lead

June 3, 2011 – The North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) Critical Care Lead, Dr. David Boyle, has completed his term by delivering a first-ever regional policy to provide critically injured emergency patients with streamlined access to care.

The policy is thanks to the collaborative efforts of many partners, in particular the staff at all four NE LHIN hub hospitals (Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Timmins and Sudbury), and the leadership of Dr. Christopher Bourdon, NE LHIN Emergency Department Lead and Chief of Staff at Sudbury Regional.

The policy enhances patient access to emergency specialty services in Northeastern Ontario, a main priority of the NE LHIN. It is effective as of June 1, 2011, and will be used by all 25 hospitals across the region.

The policy will ensure that patients who need care because they are in danger of loss of ‘life or limb’ will be transferred to get that care at another hospital within four hours if it’s not possible to receive the care they need at their own local hospital. These transfers will occur, even when the receiving hospital is overcapacity. This helps patients get identified and transferred to the most appropriate level of care in the North East to receive access to care in the timeliest manner.

“Since the four hub hospitals in our region get many requests for patient transfers, this policy was created in partnership with colleagues to clarify guidelines for ensuring patients get the care they need quickly and seamlessly when there’s danger of loss of life or limb,” says Dr. Boyle.

“With health care leaders like Dr. Boyle, the North East LHIN is able to move forward in helping fellow Northerners get the lifesaving emergency care they need as close to where they live as possible. The North East LHIN’s goals of more integrated, streamlined and local health care system have been well served by Dr. Boyle’s leadership,” said Louise Paquette, CEO, NE LHIN.

Dr. Boyle joined the NE LHIN in May 2006 as Critical Care Lead to develop plans on the best use of critical care resources in the Northeastern region. He is an Anesthesiologist and Intensivist at Sudbury Regional Hospital and an Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM).

As NE LHIN’s Critical Care Lead, Dr. Boyle was instrumental in bringing the region’s health sector together to develop a regional critical care strategy during the H1N1 surge. Dr. Boyle has engaged extensively with fellow physicians across the North East LHIN on primary care issues.

As the NE LHIN bids a fond farewell to Dr. Boyle, it welcomes Dr. Derek Manchuk as the new NE LHIN Critical Care Lead.

Dr. Manchuk is currently a Staff Anesthesiologist/Intensivist at Sudbury Regional Hospital and has been a lecturer in the Clinical Faculty of Medicine, NOSM. He has held medical positions in many Northern communities, including Timmins, Marathon, Thunder Bay, and Atikokan.

Since January 2010, Dr. Manchuk has been Chief of Critical Care at Sudbury Regional Hospital. In 2010, Dr. Manchuk was named NOSM Family Practice Anesthesia Preceptor of the Year.

"I look forward to working with the NE LHIN and its many partners in continuing the good work done by Dr. Boyle on behalf of the people and patients of Northeastern Ontario," says Dr. Manchuk.

Quick Facts:

- The three main goals to the *'Life or Limb' - No Refusal Policy*:
 1. To ensure transfer of critically ill patients to closest, most appropriate regional care institution in the most efficient, expedited, and safest manner possible
 2. To ensure timely consultation with a receiving physician to improve access to required critical care services
 3. To optimize resources required to provide critical care services to a Life or Limb patient (transport, physician consultation, critical care beds, surgical suites/teams etc.)
- In October 2011, the policy will be reviewed by the NE LHIN and Northeast hospitals to ensure it is working effectively.

For More Information:

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