

LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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Media Release

Lake of the Woods District Hospital

Lake of the Woods District Hospital announces changes to enhance care, increase patient and staff safety, and improve service efficiencies

As Health System Funding Reform (HSFR) is implemented in Ontario, its impact is being felt across the health care system. Health care providers are responding with continued efforts to provide high-quality care, while working to become more efficient in order to contribute to health system sustainability. The HSFR objective is to fund hospitals according to the following:

- evidence informed pricing;
- targeted procedures;
- adoption of best practices in care delivery models; and
- maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

For the last two (2) years, this new system has posed significant challenges in sustaining services while maintaining a balanced budget.

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital's management team has been recently meeting with staff to go over the changes that are being implemented. Four (4) major changes being announced are:

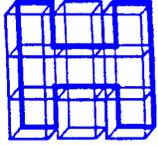
- The reduction of five (5) medical beds on the second floor.
- The integration of Obstetrics with the second floor medicine and pediatrics programs, and locating it adjacent to the operating rooms.
- Enhanced integration of mental health, addictions, and social work into daily patient hospital care at LWDH.
- The introduction of the "Room Service" patient menu, ordering, and delivery system.

These changes create an opportunity for enhanced care, increased patient and staff safety, and improved service efficiencies.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Local Health Integration Network's (LHIN) enhancements to community and primary care in Kenora over the past decade have had the desired impact. The demand for hospital inpatient and emergency care has declined over the past ten years by 28.5 percent and 18.5 percent respectively. Births have declined from approximately 250 per year to 200 or less per year, which is a decrease of 20 percent.

A plan to address low occupancy rates on the second floor resulted in the reduction of five (5) medical beds on the second floor.

The relocation and integration of Obstetrics creates an opportunity to enhance patient and staff safety while improving efficiency in the Obstetrical service. By locating the Obstetrical service on



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the second floor the 20 to 25 percent of pregnant women who will require a C-section will now be seconds away from the operating theatre. Currently, they are separated by two floors and an elevator ride. The current location of the Obstetrical service on the fourth floor also resulted in staff isolation and safety concerns that will be addressed by integrating the staff from both units on the same floor. We will continue to have two obstetrical Registered Nurses on the service 24/7, and to meet the standards of care and safety for our patients.

The hospital will be moving towards a holistic model of service, by comprehensively integrating mental health, addiction, and related social work services into daily episodes of patient care.

Room Service is an innovative approach to nutrition where patients may order and receive what they want off an extensive menu featuring in-house prepared foods. By providing patients with the opportunity to choose what they want to eat when they are hungry, we expect patient satisfaction will substantially increase and will also result in reduced food waste. Lake of the Woods District Hospital will be the first hospital in Northwestern Ontario, and among just a few hospitals in Canada, to introduce this food service system.

These changes will result in clinical and financial efficiencies. The hospital acknowledges that staff hours will be reduced to correspond with the change in demand. Staffing is being reduced in management, as well as unionized positions, and it is planned that most of the reductions can be achieved through attrition and existing staff vacancies.

LWDH will continue to meet a high-quality standard of care in service provision, and is committed to providing safe care for our patients.

For further information please contact:

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