
For Immediate Release – Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Media Release

RE: Clarification of Diabetic Education & Support Services Changes

Smiths Falls, ON – Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital (PSFDH) and Rideau Community Health Services have embarked on implementation of a change of service provider for provision of outpatient diabetic education. This release is intended to clarify the intention of the recent decision and provide further background to Rideau Valley Diabetes Services.

Background: There have been significant changes in the funding of health services in Ontario, particularly over the last five years. With health system funding restructuring, some programs, including outpatient diabetic services, formerly funded through global hospitals budgets are now being administered by community agencies funded by the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care through the Local Health Integration Network.

In Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, outpatient diabetic services have been provided by Rideau Valley Diabetes Services (RVDS) since 1999, delivering a wide range of support for people with diabetes and pre-diabetes. RVDS has a number of services for diabetic patients and they work directly with other care providers to ensure that there is comprehensive diabetic care and education. Given the duplication of services, the part time diabetic clinic at the GWM Site of PSFDH will be closed at the end of March.

Diabetic services for people in the Perth area will remain of high quality and will be provided as of April 1, 2017 by RVDS consistent with services provided to all other people with diabetes and pre-diabetes in the rest of the tri-county area.

Residents, therefore, will continue to have access to diabetic support in their community. Staff from PSFDH and RVDS are working with other partners and providers to facilitate a smooth transition for patients with diabetes in the Perth area.

RVDS currently provides service in more than 20 locations throughout Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Counties – Monday through Friday. The service employs 15 staff – including nurses, dietitians, kinesiologists and foot care nurses – many of whom are certified diabetic educators.

The mandate of RVDS is to help people in our community affected by diabetes to live healthy lives and easily navigate a coordinated system of care. You can reach RVDS at (613) 284-2558 or toll free 1-877-321-4500 for more information.

About PSFDH:

The Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital (the “Hospital”) is a fully accredited acute care health care organization located on two state-of-the-art sites. The hospital is situated in the heart of the Rideau Canal region and proudly provides health services to more than 44,000 people in the surrounding communities. The hospital delivers a broad range of primary and secondary services and programs such as emergency care, diagnostic imaging, obstetrics, general and specialty surgical services, dialysis as well as laboratory and infection control services.

About Rideau Community Health Services (RCHS):

RCHS has provided primary health care and social services to the residents of Lanark Leeds Grenville since 1974. RCHS is community owned, and governed by a 12 person volunteer board. RCHS is supported by the South East Local Health Integration Network, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and by the communities and people we serve.

For more information contact:

Beverley McFarlane
President & CEO
Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital
613-283-2330 ext: 1110
www.psfhdh.on.ca

Peter McKenna
Executive Director
Rideau Community Health Services
613-269-4743
www.rideauchs.ca