
Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network

October 13, 2010

NEW TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM HELPS DIALYSIS PATIENTS GET THE CARE THEY NEED

Travelling to regular dialysis appointments at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital has just become easier for people living in Chatham-Kent and Essex County. Lakeshore Community Services will lead the Coordinated Dialysis Transportation Service, dedicated to linking patients with a ride to and from their appointments. The program recently received funding through the year-three Aging at Home Strategy by the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network.

This unique program brings agencies together in partnership to link patients with services across two counties.

Patients looking to use the service need only call 519-728-1435. As the coordinating body, Lakeshore Community Services will make all the arrangements, connecting them to wheel chair accessible vans or other vehicles. Both paid and volunteer drivers from the partner agencies will escort patients door-to-door for their dialysis appointment. Depending on location, cost ranges from \$6 to \$27 per round trip, subsidized by the Aging at Home funding.

Tracey Bailey, Executive Director of Lakeshore Community Services, is happy to be able to lead this program and help make travelling to dialysis appointments a better experience for community members. "Dialysis treatment is hard enough on patients without the added concern of transportation" said Bailey. That's our job and I'm glad we can help."