
Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network

September 13, 2010

CHATHAM-KENT CHC RECEIVES FUNDING FOR FALLS PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY-BASED REHAB TEAM

Preventing seniors from experiencing a fall and providing greater options for community-based rehabilitation are the goals of the new services recently funded at the Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre (CK CHC). Through the Aging at Home Strategy, the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN) is providing \$355,103 to develop the new programs locally.

The Falls Prevention program will target seniors who have had a fall or are at high risk due to a recent hip and knee replacement surgery. Seniors will be referred to an Occupational Therapist at the CK CHC for an in-home consultation or to participate in an educational workshop.

The Community-based Rehabilitation Team will complement the work of the Falls Prevention program by providing individualized rehab care to seniors with osteoarthritis, history of falls, or recovering from hip or knee replacement surgery. It will also target patients with chronic conditions such as stroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA), and congestive heart failure.

The rehab team will be staffed by a registered nurse, occupational therapist and physiotherapist and will offer short term (6-8 week) programs that address physical, social and cognitive decline in seniors.

With the highest rate of knee replacements and osteoarthritis in Ontario, the ESC LHIN anticipates these programs will provide better care to seniors by improving or maintaining the physical and cognitive functioning for frail seniors and dramatically reducing hospital admissions and repeat ED visits for falls.

For more information on the Aging at Home Strategy and the more than one-hundred new and expanded programs funded locally through the initiative, visit www.eriesclairlhin.on.ca.