
Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network

August 3, 2010

NEW PROGRAM AT LDMH TO IMPROVE CARE FOR ELDERLY

Leamington District Memorial Hospital (LDMH) will be unveiling a new program on August 4, 2010, to improve the care delivered to frail elderly patients and reducing Alternate Level of Care (“ALC”) rates.

The new program called “Assess / Restore” is a comprehensive approach that will quickly identify patients who may either be diverted directly from the Emergency Department back to their homes or who require more focused care while in the hospital. There will be 10 specially designated beds in the inpatient area that will provide patients with more intensive services like physiotherapy and occupational therapy and will also support patients in activities of daily living so those patients can transition home more easily.

Other goals for the program include:

- Ensuring patients do not deteriorate, but in fact are supported so they can return home as soon as possible planning with their families and others for more appropriate options to hospitalization.
- Reducing the number of patients who are designated ALC in the hospital and to discharge more patients home so they can receive care in the proper setting.
- Giving seniors choice in the care and support they receive.
- Enabling seniors to regain independence by returning back to their home or to an appropriate community setting of their choice.

The Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN) is providing \$900,000 in one-time funding to initiate the project and to evaluate outcomes and success. One of the key outcomes targeted in this initiative will be the reduction of ALC levels. LDMH currently has one of the highest percentages of ALC patients among ESC LHIN hospitals.