

June 15, 2011

## NURSE LED OUTREACH TEAM CARES FOR SENIORS IN NURSING HOMES

Worried about a resident's change in behavior with the onset of confusion and lethargy, staff of a nursing home prepared to send Bob to the hospital. After assessment by the Nurse Led Outreach Team from Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital, Bob was diagnosed and treated for a urinary tract infection. Within 2 days of treatment, the resident's confusion and lethargy had resolved and his regular appetite and activities of daily living returned to normal. In addition to avoiding an unnecessary trip to the Emergency Department, the prompt treatment likely helped avoid the development of urosepsis, which would have required more aggressive hospital treatment.

Nurse Led Outreach Teams are funded by the Erie St. Clair LHIN and are helping to bridge the gap between hospitals and Long-Term Care homes. The team provides comprehensive care to residents in their homes, helping to avoid Emergency Department visits, hospital admissions and disruptions to their daily living. Since April 2010, Nurse Led Outreach Teams have cared for over 2,177 residents in the Windsor/Essex region.

Nurse Led Outreach Teams are also supporting families. When Lucy, a 90 year-old resident of the nursing home suffered a serious stroke, the outreach team was able to respond by providing support to family members. The Nurse Practitioner helped the family understand Lucy's medical condition, options for treatment and realistic outcomes. The care provided assisted the family with the decision to change advanced directives to the hospital where their loved one was transferred. Lucy died with the dignity as she had always wanted, avoiding invasive tests and procedures that awaited her had that decision not been made.

LHINs are the only organizations in Ontario that bring together health care partners from the following sectors – hospitals, community care, community support services, community mental health and addictions, community health centres and long-term care – to develop innovative, collaborative solutions leading to more timely access to high quality services for the residents of Ontario and Erie St. Clair. By supporting these important partnerships, LHINs are ensuring that Ontarians have access to an effective and efficient health care system that delivers improved health care results and a better patient experience.

(Names have been changed to maintain client confidentiality)