

# **NEWS**

## **NAPANEE & PERTH MOVE TO PROVINCIAL MODEL OF COMMUNITY LAB SERVICE**

January 12, 2009

The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) today announced the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is transitioning the two pilot laboratory projects within the region to the widely-used provincial model for community laboratory services.

This transition involves community laboratory pilot projects in Napanee and Perth. While these pilots make use of laboratory testing at Lennox and Addington County General Hospital (LACGH) and Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital's (PSFDH) Great War Memorial Hospital site in Perth, no changes are anticipated to service delivery within the hospitals.

Based on the recommendations of the Ontario Laboratory Pilot Projects Review, the ministry has decided that the best course of action to ensure accessible and sustainable community laboratory services for the communities of Napanee and Perth is to move to the provincial model of community laboratory services. Lab pilot projects like those in Napanee and Perth were designed to allow hospitals to perform testing on a significant proportion of community-based tests, while a community provider did the specimen collection. This is different from the provincial community lab service model where the community provider delivers end-to-end testing services, from collecting the specimen, processing the tests and reporting test results.

As of Monday, July 13, 2009, community lab specimen collection and processing for Perth and Napanee will be conducted by LifeLabs. Community residents needing laboratory tests will continue to have timely access to high quality laboratory services delivered by LifeLabs within their community. PSFDH and LACGH will ensure hospital lab services continue to be available to serve each hospital's registered in-patients and out-patients.

### **QUOTES**

"Accessible, quality sustainable community-based lab services will continue to be available during and after the transition," says Paul Huras, Chief Executive Officer, SE LHIN. "Working together, the hospitals, LifeLabs and the LHIN have established clear objectives for the new model of service delivery. Moving to a community model fits in with our overall strategy of providing our residents with proactive, integrated and responsive health care."

"Lab tests for registered inpatients, emergency patients and outpatients of our hospitals will continue to be collected, processed and reported by the hospitals' laboratories," says Todd Stepanuik, Chief Executive Officer at PSFDH.

"We anticipate there will be some change to the amount of work coming into the hospital labs," says Wayne Coveyduck, Executive Director at LACGH. "We are

committed to working closely with our staff and with our unions to minimize any adverse impacts.”

## **QUICK FACTS**

- Residents in the Napanee and Perth areas who require laboratory tests will continue to have timely access to high quality laboratory testing in their communities.
- This transition to the provincial model of community laboratory service will take place on July 13, 2009. In the interim, the laboratory service delivery team will keep the public informed about the process.
- Most rural areas and small communities in Ontario use the provincial community lab service model, where the community laboratory provider funded by OHIP delivers end-to-end lab testing services including test processing.
- Laboratory testing for community patients is outside of the responsibilities of Ontario’s hospitals. The community laboratory sector has long provided community laboratory testing in Ontario, thereby ensuring hospital laboratories focus their services to meet the needs of the hospital’s inpatients and registered outpatients.
- LifeLabs is a Canadian company that currently serves all regions in Ontario and employs more than 2,000 people.
- In the South East, LifeLabs has a significant presence, with 150 staff members providing local access to testing through laboratory specimen collection centres in Bancroft, Belleville, Brockville, Kingston, Picton, Smiths Falls and Trenton. LifeLabs also operates two testing facilities including a full service regional lab in Belleville and a laboratory facility in Kingston that specializes in diagnostic cytology testing that screens for cervical cancer.
- LifeLabs currently provides services for the region’s Community Care Access Centre and serve 80 long-term care facilities in the region including nursing homes, retirement homes and homes for the aged.
- In 2005-06, Quinte Health Care’s Picton and Trenton sites as well as Brockville General Hospital transitioned community testing back into the community, with LifeLabs ensuring a smooth transition with continued local access for patients.

## **LEARN MORE**

For more information about the South East LHIN, visit [www.southeastlin.on.ca](http://www.southeastlin.on.ca)

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