



For Immediate Release

New Program to Promote Elder Friendly Care in our Community Hospitals

Tuesday, October 09, 2012 –North Wellington Health Care (NWHC) is proud to introduce the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP).

HELP is an innovative approach to improving hospital care for older patients. “Being in the hospital often upsets normal routines of mental and physical activity when patients are coping with illness.” states Kourtney Richardson, NWHC Elder Life Specialist. “This disruption can cause a rapid decline in older adult’s general mental and physical functioning.”

HELP keeps the mind and body as active as possible in spite of illness, benefiting the patient and promoting recovery. “Patients enrolled into the HELP program by hospital staff will be offered a series of interventions to keep patients oriented to their surroundings, mobile within the limitations of their physical condition, while meeting their needs of nutrition, hydration and sleep.” states Richardson.

“The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network is funding the HELP program at our hospitals along with six other area hospitals.” states Jerome Quenneville, NWHC President and CEO. “We are very proud to be a part of this innovative and worthwhile program.”

“NWHC’s Louise Marshall Hospital and Palmerston District Hospital are looking for responsible volunteers to aide in the implementation of the HELP program.” states Richardson “Volunteers will undergo extensive training and once confident and competent of the programs goals and interventions, they will proceed and carry out the daily interventions of the program, with the patients.” Anyone interested in making a meaningful difference through hands on interventions with elder in-patients can attend an information session on:

Palmerston and District Hospital Boardroom

Thursday Oct. 18th, 11:00-11:45 am or 5:00-5:45 pm

Contact: Kourtney Richardson: krichardson@nwhealthcare.ca or 519-323-2210 ext 2325

Louise Marshall Hospital Boardroom

Friday Oct. 19th, 11:00-11:45 am or 5:00-5:45 pm

Contact: Kourtney Richardson: krichardson@nwhealthcare.ca or 519-323-2210 ext 2325

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North Wellington Health Care is a regional provider of primary and secondary health services. North Wellington Health Care delivers high quality health care services through fully-accredited hospital sites in Mount Forest and Palmerston.

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