



For Immediate Release:
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Media Release

York Central Hospital Celebrates Candidacy for Prestigious RNAO Best Practice Spotlight Organization Designation!

RICHMOND HILL, ON. – Did you know that York Central Hospital employs 942 Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses?

As part of the hospital's Nursing Week events, the hospital formally announced its candidacy as a Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) with the launch of the initiative at a special ceremony this afternoon.

“York Central Hospital is very proud of the dedication to quality care being provided to our patients, families and the community by our nurses every day,” say Tiziana Rivera, the hospital's interim Chief Nurse Executive/Chief Practice Officer. “In recognition of our focus on knowledge to practice to, we are honoured that Doris Grinspun, the RNAO's Executive Director is here today to support the official launch ceremony and announce York Central Hospital's Candidacy to become a Best Practice Spotlight Organization.”

Doris Grinspun, Executive Director of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) spoke at the launch today about nurses' leadership in evidence based-practice. Special attention was given to the role of RNAO's Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs) in strengthening clinical practices, enriching work environments and shaping health policy.

“Considering nurses' tremendous clinical expertise and our privileged position of trust with the public, nursing is a powerful force for positive system transformation,” says Grinspun. We must use this power in a wise and responsible way to advance evidence-informed practices that improve patient, organizational and system outcomes.”

In the first year of the three year commitment to excellence, the hospital will focus on changing practice within the following areas:

- Person-Focused Care
- Delirium, Dementia, Depression
- Prevention of Falls
- Management of Stroke
- Foot Ulcers Care

At the ceremony, Jo-anne Marr, Interim President and CEO commented, “becoming a Spotlight organization is no small feat. It takes many dedicated hours and people to determine if this is a suitable fit

for an organization. After that, it takes many more hours and resources to make it all happen. From application to recognition, this is no small accomplishment. York Central's achievement of becoming a Best Practice Spotlight Organization candidate shows compassion and caring for our patient, and the openness to changing, with the knowledge that we are adopting and creating the very best processes for our patients."

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York Central Hospital is a large, full-service community hospital with over 69,000 visits annually to its Emergency Department, serving a population of more than 400,000 in Southwest York Region and beyond. Located in one of Canada's fastest growing communities, the hospital is on a Capacity Building Journey that focuses on using the best available practices, the newest technologies and innovative models of service to provide superior patient care. With a compliment of 469 beds, the hospital is home to the District Stroke Centre, York Regional Chronic Kidney Disease Program, and York Region Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Care Centre. For more information visit us at: www.yorkcentral.on.ca

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Backgrounder:

What is a Best Practice Spotlight Organization?

Spotlight Organizations are health-care organizations selected by the RNAO to implement, evaluate and share lessons learned from their guideline experiences and research findings. The partnership is dynamic and long term, focusing on making a positive impact on patient care in the province.

The role of the partnership between RNAO and the Spotlight Organizations is to:

- demonstrate creative strategies for successfully implementing nursing best practice guidelines;
- evaluate implementation and outcome measures through on-going audits and/or formal research studies; and,
- share broadly the lessons learned and results of the implementation.

Both parties commit financial and expert resources to the initiative. RNAO will commit financial and expert resources based on funding support received from the Ontario government and BPSO candidates will commit finances and expertise from its own resources.

What are Best Practice Spotlight Candidates?

BPSO candidates are organizations that are working to complete their three-year partnership with RNAO. After the three-year mark, organizations may “graduate” to become BPSOs as they continue their commitment to implement, evaluate and disseminate Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs).

The Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs) are selected based on staff interest in the subject matter, a desire to build on and augment current York Central Hospital initiatives and an awareness of Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MoHLTC) priorities.

For further details, please contact the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario at: www.rnao.org

RNAO's BPSO Fact Sheet

RNAO's Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) candidates

Spotlights

- ♣ On April 2, 2009, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) announced three-year partnerships with 16 health-care organizations committed to implementing its internationally-recognized Nursing Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs). These organizations are called 'Best Practice Spotlight Organization Candidates.' During their dynamic, long-term partnerships with RNAO, each organization will implement a series of guidelines which provide nurses with the latest research evidence in patient care.
- ♣ Spotlights develop creative strategies for successfully implementing nursing best practice guidelines, evaluate implementation and outcome measures through on-going audits and/or formal research studies, and broadly share the lessons learned and results of the implementation. After the three-year mark, organizations may "graduate" to become BPSOs as they continue their commitment to implementing, evaluating and disseminating BPGs.
- ♣ The Spotlight initiative is nurse-led and nurse-driven. In each organization, nurses working in a variety of roles – as administrators, educators, advanced practice and point-of-care nurses – become actively engaged in implementation projects. In addition to improving patient outcomes, these nurse-led projects empower and energize nurses, transform nursing practice, raise the profile of nurses as knowledge professionals and help the organizations meet their strategic objectives.
- ♣ Each Spotlight organization selects guidelines which will have the greatest impact on the health and well-being of patients or clients and develops strategies to implement and evaluate them.
- ♣ This initiative is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, with matching funds provided by each organization.
- ♣ To date, 21 health-care organizations have completed three-year partnerships with RNAO. These organizations are now officially designated as 'Best Practice Spotlight Organizations.' These organizations are currently building on the work completed during their initial three-year contract with RNAO and nurses who led implementation projects are now mentoring nurses in other organizations.
- ♣ "The aim of this initiative is to create working environments where the most current evidence is used in day-to-day practice by all nurses. Spotlight organizations support nurses to enhance their practice based on the best knowledge so they can provide the highest quality of care to their clients. Such organizations are better equipped to achieve positive health outcomes for patients, retain a qualified nursing workforce and successfully recruit additional staff as required," explains Irmajean Bajnok, Director of International Affairs and Best Practice Guidelines Programs at RNAO.

Spotlights - continued

- ♣ The sixteen new Best Practice Spotlight Candidates are: Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital, Arnprior; Bloorview Kids Rehab, Toronto; CanCare Health Services Inc., Toronto; CarePartners, Waterloo; Fairview Mennonite Homes, Cambridge; Grand River Hospital, Kitchener; Guelph General Hospital; Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN); Hôpital Montfort Hospital; Toronto Public Health; Thunder Bay District Health Unit; Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre; Trent Fleming School of Nursing (in partnership with Fairhaven Municipal Long Term Care Facility & St. Joseph's at Fleming Long Term Care Facility), Peterborough; Sandwich Community Health Centre Inc., Windsor; St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto; and York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill.

RNAO's Nursing Best Practice Guidelines

- ♣ RNAO's ambitious Best Practice Guidelines Program, funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, was launched in 1999 to provide the best available evidence for patient care across a wide spectrum of health-care areas.
- ♣ RNAO's BPGs provide nurses and other members of health-care teams with current, comprehensive recommendations for patient care based on the latest research evidence. To date, 32 clinical and seven healthy work environments guidelines have been developed, implemented and evaluated by thousands of expert nurses from all regions of the province and sectors of health care.
- ♣ RNAO's guidelines are developed by teams of nurses and other health-care experts and are based on the latest research evidence.
- ♣ The guidelines have been implemented by health-care organizations across Canada and abroad.

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)

- ♣ The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario is the professional association representing registered nurses in Ontario. Since 1925, RNAO has lobbied for healthy public policy, promoted excellence in nursing practice, increased nurses' contribution to shaping the health-care system, and influenced decisions that affect nurses and the public they serve.