

News Release

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CENTRAL LHIN Promotes Strategy to Develop High Volume Cataract Centres
Hospitals get on board with planning proposed integration: centres of excellence would result in positive patient outcomes, shorter wait times and more surgeries

Markham – Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) hospitals have agreed to work together to explore a new model of centralized delivery for cataract procedures that would see all cataract surgeries in Central LHIN performed at two high volume centres: one located at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, and the other at the Branson site of North York General Hospital, in North York.

The proposed strategy was developed by the Wait Times Steering Committee of the Central LHIN, which is comprised of representatives from Central LHIN hospitals and the Central Community Care Access Centre.

According to the Committee, the creation of high volume cataract centres of excellence would result in a number of positive benefits for patients, including better clinical outcomes, shorter overall wait times for surgery, and enhanced capacity within the system to deliver more surgeries each year.

“We support the recommendations of our Wait Times Steering Committee and believe that creating these two high volume specialty cataract centres is good for patient care,” says Hy Eliasoph, CEO of the Central LHIN. “Having specialized teams in our hospitals focused on the unique needs of patients requiring cataract surgery will enhance the overall quality of patient care and provide improved access for people who require the surgery.”

Creating high volume cataract centres at Southlake Regional Health Centre and the Branson site of North York General Hospital aligns with similar new models of cataract surgery delivery in other jurisdictions in the province, and is a strategy endorsed by the Provincial Wait Times Strategy.

“The Province strongly encourages integration to high volume, high quality cataract centres. This allows improved access for patients and improved efficiency and optimal use of taxpayers dollars, says Dr. Alan Hudson, who leads the provincial initiative to address patient wait times for key procedures. “We must get rid of unnecessary duplication of services in the LHIN,” he adds.

According to Eliasoph, the six hospitals in the Central LHIN that perform cataract procedures have agreed to voluntarily get together to determine how they could implement the strategy and to develop a proposed integration plan for approval by the Central LHIN Board of Directors.

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“We are keen to work with the hospitals and ophthalmology leadership to move toward this new and enhanced service for residents of the Central LHIN and beyond,” says Eliasoph. “In so doing, we will ensure that we address relevant concerns of patients, caregivers and others before we proceed to implement the plan.”

Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is one of 14 LHINs established by the Government of Ontario as community-based organizations to plan, co-ordinate, integrate and fund health services at the local level. One of the most populous and diverse LHINs, Central LHIN encompasses the majority of York Region, as well as north Toronto and south Simcoe. Through its Integrated Health Service Plan, Central LHIN is dedicated to improving the accessibility, coordination, quality and efficiency of our health system, to help people lead healthier lives.

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