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**Attention: News & Health Editors**



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## **Media Release**

### **HNHB LHIN Hospitals Create Plan to Further Enhance Quality, Access and Efficiency of Laboratory Services**

**Official Announcement from Dr. Kevin Smith, President and CEO, St. Joseph's Health System, LHIN CEO Lead, Regional Laboratory Integration Initiative** – As CEO Lead of the Regional Laboratory Integration initiative, I am pleased to announce the next steps in the Regional Laboratory Network Planning for the Hamilton-Niagara-Haldimand-Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). Building on our strong reputation for delivering excellent laboratory services, we are confident our plans will enable us to further enhance quality, access and efficiency of laboratory services in this region.

With a focus on Standardization, Consolidation, Specialization and Innovation, the following organizations are working together to further develop the plan for coordination of regional laboratory services in the HNHB LHIN:

- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre
- Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital
- Niagara Health System
- St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
- West Lincoln Memorial Hospital

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has recently delivered its Action Plan to transform the health care system. The central tenets of this Action Plan are to ensure families get their best health care where and when they need it, while ensuring all Ontarians get better value for their health dollars. We support these priorities and our approach will improve upon patient care and the quality of laboratory services while allowing for the provision of emerging laboratory testing areas such as Genetics and Molecular Testing.

These organizations will form a LHIN Laboratory Council (LLC) that will work to create a formal governance structure for the operations of the laboratories within this network. Mr. Eric Vandewall, President and CEO of the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital has agreed to be the Council's inaugural Chair as we move forward in the next stages of our strategy development.

Working with the LHIN Laboratory Council and in collaboration with the Laboratory Medical Directors, will be Mr. David Langstaff as Executive Director of the LHIN Laboratory Network responsible for the administration of laboratory services offered at each hospital laboratory in the Network. Clinical coherence at all hospital sites will be maintained throughout the network.

In the recent report from the Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, Don Drummond calls on Ontario to be a leader in shifting public services from a reactive to a proactive mode. Our coordinated, regional approach to the delivery of laboratory services does just that and will proactively address current and future medical laboratory challenges. Each hospital will experience these challenges differently and the synergies of bringing this expertise together will assist with developing solutions for all sites.

As we move towards standardization and consolidation of processes within laboratory medicine we will enhance our operational integration and achieve greater efficiencies. This will allow us to continue to deliver solutions to address funding, recruitment and utilization pressures in laboratory medicine while improving access to new equipment and technologies. The creation of the LHIN Laboratory Council is the next phase of planning and does not represent any operational movement of testing or employee impact. Next steps include the detailed analysis of integration opportunities. This will be a thorough and transparent process and plans will be developed in collaboration with our clinical partners and laboratory staff.

We look forward to sharing our future plans with the HNH B LHIN and member organizations as they develop and appreciate your support of this strategically important initiative.

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