

Providence Care receives over \$150,000 in funding to support advanced digital technology

Kingston – December 14, 2009 – Kingston area residents are benefiting from new technology in place at Providence Care that eliminates the need for film-based X-rays and provides clinicians with quick access to test results. This month Providence Care met a milestone in its new web-based PACS system, with the receipt of over \$150,000 from Canada Health Infoway.

PACS is an information system that allows diagnostic images such as X-rays, MRI, ultrasounds and CT scans to be digitally captured, stored, transmitted and available to clinicians regardless of where they are located or where the test was conducted.

Traditionally diagnostic images have been obtained and stored on film, meaning these film images had to be physically transported to where they were needed for use.

“We moved to PACS last year and now we are ready to advance it to the next level,” says Tanya McDonald, PACS Administrator for Providence Care. “The benefits are numerous and include cost and time savings. But the ultimate advantage is the improvement to patient care. To have the ability to instantly access patient information is invaluable and has the potential to decrease wait times and provide more timely assessments and treatment.”

This month, Canada Health Infoway presented Providence Care with a cheque for \$152,793. With this support, Providence Care is able to progress to the next stage of the project and join Hospital Diagnostic Imaging Repository Services (HDIRS), representing a provincial network of 35 health facilities across Ontario that all store diagnostic images on HDIRS central archive. This means every partner facility can share information with reliable and secure access to diagnostic images and reports.

Canada Health Infoway (CHI) is a not-for-profit organization that works with health care providers and technology solution providers across the country to advance the use of electronic health records (EHR) in Canada.

“It has been exciting to watch this project evolve and see how it is enhancing our ability to provide leading care,” says Linda Reason, Manager of Clinical Support Services for Providence Care St. Mary’s of the Lake Hospital and Mental Health Services. “To move forward and join HDIRS means we will be part of a network that supports the sharing of critical information and that can result in fewer delays, faster treatment and in an environment where minutes count, there is the potential to save lives and limit health complications.”

Providence Care is southeastern Ontario’s leading provider of adult mental health treatment and rehabilitation, complex continuing care, forensic psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, palliative care, specialized geriatric medicine, long-term care and rehabilitation programs. One of Kingston’s university hospitals, Providence Care has three main sites in Kingston: Mental Health Services, St. Mary’s of the Lake Hospital and Providence Manor, as well as 18 community locations. Affiliated with Queen’s University, Providence Care is a major centre for teaching and research.

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Photo: News Release - Providence Care receives funding - Dec 2009

Caption: Linda Reason, Manager, Clinical Support Services Providence Care, and Niles Geminiuc, Project Director of the Hospital Diagnostic Imaging Repository Service (HDIRS) celebrate a cheque from Canada Health Infoway for \$152,793 after reaching milestone #1 in Providence Care's PACS implementation project.

