



Internal Memo

Date: Monday, October 22, 2018

To: Everyone at WLMH

From: Dr. Wes Stephen, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, Clinical Operations

Subject: **Update on West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Upgrades**

Colleagues:

I would like to inform you that Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) is making an application to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) for the funding and approval required to conduct significant facility upgrades needed to meet hospital accreditation standards for equipment reprocessing at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH).

In May, we learned that facility upgrades are required at WLMH to meet the current Accreditation Canada standards for equipment re-processing in endoscopy services. We immediately moved endoscopy services off-site while investigating remedial efforts through a third-party consultant.

The consultant report indicates that remedial efforts are in fact needed throughout the WLMH surgical facilities to meet these standards, requiring \$8.6 million and 27 months for construction work. The MOHLTC approval process could add six months or more to this timeframe.

During construction, we anticipate the need to move surgical and obstetric services out of WLMH to other HHS locations. We do not yet know when this will be required and are working now to understand the implications of the construction approach proposed in the consultant report, as well as other factors.

We are also discussing next steps with our Board and the MOHLTC. The inter-dependence of the physical space, staffing and the clinical service model for surgery and obstetrics at WLMH requires that these services move together.

Our planning anticipates the physicians and staff from WLMH would follow our patients to the host sites, or exercise their options as per the collective agreement, with no expected job loss. We will also plan to meet our current procedural volumes with no service reductions. The Emergency Department, imaging, inpatient beds and clinics would continue to function during this timeframe. To our knowledge at this time, they are not impacted by this remedial work.

Concurrently, we are moving forward with a \$7-million renewal project to upgrade essential infrastructure at WLMH, such as pipes and air handling. This project has received the majority of required government approvals. We are waiting to receive the funding and final approval needed for the work to proceed.

HHS remains committed to rebuilding WLMH. Our proposal for the rebuild was endorsed by the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network and submitted to the MOHLTC in early 2018, as part of an overall redevelopment plan for HHS.

We are hopeful that we will receive the government funding and approvals required for the rebuild. However, we must maintain a safe environment in the current facility indefinitely until we have a timeline for that rebuild to occur. To that end, our surgical facility must be fully compliant with Accreditation Canada and other contemporary quality of care standards. We will always insist that quality care for our patients is the primary driver of our decisions.

We will keep you informed as our discussions internally and with the MOHLTC proceed.
Sincerely,

Wes