



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Windsor Family Health Team Paves the Way to Move into the Proposed Urgent Care Clinic at Former Grace Hospital Site

The Boards of Directors of both the Windsor Family Health Team (WFHT) and Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) have agreed in principle to conduct the necessary due diligence that will result in the WFHT moving its primary health care operations to the new Urgent Care Centre building at the former Grace Hospital site.

Back in July 2015, WRH along with Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare announced the transformation of the local hospital healthcare delivery service which included the construction of a \$150 million investment of an 80,000 square foot, four storey, Urgent Care Centre. The Urgent Care Centre would be operated by emergency room physicians and nurses from WRH and service some 40,000 plus patients who would typically be seen at an emergency department in a more timely and efficient manner. It is modelled after a similar urgent care centre in Toronto at the former Queensway Hospital site operated by Trillium Health. To learn more about the Queensway Urgent Care Centre, [click here](#) to visit the Windsor Regional Hospital video blog.

The proposed Windsor Regional Urgent Care Centre would be full diagnostic services including a CT scanner, laboratory and pharmacy services. [Click here](#) to learn more about the proposed Urgent Care Facility.

In keeping with the principles of Ontario's Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care, the co-location of the WFHT ensures a seamless system by "wrapping primary health care" around the urgent care centre to improve access and connected services. Patients that could benefit from being able to access comprehensive primary healthcare services could be referred to the Windsor Family Health Team to avoid repeated trips to Urgent Care or the acute emergency department.

The WFHT is an award winning non-profit charity with a community governance Board. Currently the WFHT has 21 staff made up of 4 physicians, 2 nurse practitioners, 2 social workers, 1 registered nurse, 2 registered practical nurses and 1 health promoter/dietitian and an administrative team including quality improvement decision support. In addition to the core team, the WFHT also provides access to occupational therapists and a respiratory educator through partnerships. The Team currently sees approximately 30,000 patient encounters annually between its main site and 3 satellite clinics located at St. Clair College campuses. The plan is to continue to expand the Team as long as it takes to meet the community's need for access to inter-professional health care services.

"This agreement truly continues the amazing news that started with the extensive planning that was undertaken by the Steering Committee co-chaired by Dave Cooke and has involved our community every step along the way," states David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital.

"The Windsor Family Health Team is excited to continue to play a large roll in the transformation of the health care delivery model for Windsor/Essex. Being part of the renaissance of the downtown core and serving the primary health care needs of our community bodes well for the health of our region," stated Mark Ferrari, Executive Director, Windsor Family Health Team.

The next step in the process is to continue to have the Program and Services Steering Committee work with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on moving the project forward to Stage 2 of the 5 stage planning process. The goal is to have the Urgent Care Centre up and running in 7-10 years.

To learn more about the new hospital project and to receive regular updates, please visit www.windsorhospitals.ca.

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