

# **Briefing Note**

## **PAEDIATRIC RESIDENT ELECTIVES**

### **Timmins and District Hospital**

**Topic / Issue: Paediatric Residents and Electives with Timmins and District Hospital**

Program / Dept: Department of Neonatal and Paediatric Medicine

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#### **1. Situation (current state of the issue)**

At present Dr Willem Verbeek, a community based consulting paediatrician in Timmins, takes on Family Practice residents and Medical Students from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine as learners for electives in his office.

#### **2. Background**

The Paediatric Associates of Timmins and District (PATD) are a new group of 2 full-time consulting Paediatricians providing both out-patient and in-patient paediatric care to children in Timmins and the surrounding area (District of Cochrane and James and Hudson Bay Coast) within NE LHIN. PATD is presently allotted a total number of 4 FTE paediatricians by the MOHLTC under an Alternate Payment Plan.

Dr W G Smith and Dr Sarah Morse are the two new paediatricians who have formed this group. With the addition of these two paediatricians more learner time has become available for paediatric residents.

#### **Patient Services/Clinical Profiles:**

Timmins and District Hospital is an acute care community hospital that serves approximately 50,000 residents of Timmins and its surrounding areas in addition to communities in NE LHIN (District of Cochrane and James and Hudson Bay Coast). It is the centre of a number of regional programs (Paediatric Diabetes, Paediatric Asthma, Regional Complex Care Clinic) for the District of Cochrane and James and Hudson Bay Coast in the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN 13).

The two Paediatricians making up the Paediatric Associates of Timmins and District service a population of approximately 150,000. The geographic catchment area is large. To put it in another perspective, the next nearest Paediatric services are provided in Sudbury and North Bay on a south axis, Ottawa on an eastern axis and Thunder Bay on a western axis, with no options further north. Additionally the population comprises a number of Aboriginal communities with their own special needs and care.

As of 2016 the NE LHIN is home to an estimated 563,000 people, or 4 % of the population of Ontario. There are more than 20,000 children and adolescents 19 years of age or younger living in this area in 2016, which makes up 23% of the total population.

Compared to Ontario's population, the NELHIN has a higher percentage of Aboriginal patients.

## Service Provision

The Neonatal and Paediatrics program in Timmins provides regional care. The vast majority of neonatal and paediatric patients in the region are managed by family physicians and are transferred and referred to our regional centre if they have specialized needs. The program functions at an intermediate level (Level 2) between the primary community hospitals and the tertiary pediatric centers (Hospital for Sick Children [HSC], Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario [CHEO]). The community hospital partners include:

- Hopital de Notre-Dame (Hearst)
- Sensenbrenner Hospital (Kapusksing)
- Smooth Rock Falls Hospital (Smooth Rock Falls)
- Anson General (Iroquois Falls)
- Lady Minto Hospital (Cochrane)
- Chapleau Health Services (Chapleau)
- Hornepayne Community Hospital (Hornepayne)
- Bingham Memorial Hospital (Matheson)
- Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (Moose Factory, Moosonee)
- Kirkland and District Hospital (Kirkland Lake)

Services provided include:

- Inpatient Paediatrics (Level 2),
- NICU, advanced level 2 (2A)
- Outpatient Services & Programs run by the Paediatricians
  - Paediatric Associates of Timmins and District (Paediatric consulting practice)
  - Regional Paediatric Asthma Clinic
  - Regional Paediatric Diabetic Clinic
  - Regional Complex Care Clinic in association with CHEO

**Proposed Future Services** in consideration depending on complement of Paediatricians available:

Each of the 3 Paediatricians is a general consulting Paediatrician and is involved in all aspects of the regional programs. Children ranging in age from 0 to 18 years with a wide variety of medical conditions are managed. Referrals to the service are required.

Members of the group are currently working on a variety of planning committees with the Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health (PCMCH) with the goal to help steer and co-ordinate Ontario's child health care services.

## Teaching

The Paediatricians in this regional program will be regularly involved in medical student and resident teaching and have cross appointments with the University of Toronto, McMaster University, University of Western Ontario, and the Northern

School of Medicine. Teaching will also be provided to nurse practitioner students and midwife students from several institutions. Paediatric residents from University of Toronto, Queen's University, University of Ottawa, Western University, McMaster and NOSM will have the opportunity to spend elective time with the team. Students and Family Practice residents come to the program through NOSM.

One of the paediatricians is the Medical Director of the team of Paediatric Life Support (PALS) and Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP) instructors who provide both local and regional education on an ongoing basis.

All paediatric learners will be expected to fill out an evaluation form of the Timmins program at the end of their rotation which will inform the program of necessary changes and the supervising paediatrician will fill out the tertiary level program's evaluation form on the paediatric learner (HSC-Power U of T, McMaster-One 45).

### **3. Assessment**

All 3 paediatricians (Dr Willem Verbeek, Dr W Gary Smith , Dr Sarah Morse) have agreed to prioritize paediatric residents from Hospital for Sick Children and McMaster programs as learners for this **NORTHERN EXPERIENCE**. In the past there were significant barriers for Non-NOSM based learners to access the program.

In order to remove barriers the paediatricians have negotiated:

- To waive the \$200 application fee that NOSM places on Non-NOSM residents
- NOSM will cover the cost of the most economical return flight from Toronto to Timmins
- NOSM will ensure that all residents have access to the numerous furnished apartments for learners in the community
- The paediatricians will cover the cost of a rental car for the residents use while in Timmins
- The paediatricians will plan a program to stimulate learners at the senior paediatric resident level with this Northern Experience
- Allow electives of 2-4 weeks in duration (although we recommend 4 weeks to get the most out of this program)

### **4. Request / Recommendation**

**We request consideration from the program directors of the HSC and McMaster programs to engage their residents in this Northern Experience**

### **5. Benefits of Recommendation**

The resident benefits associated with supporting this initiative include:

- a truly Northern Experience exploring this environment
- engaging in care where there are few if any subspecialists
- working with experienced clinicians who have an established track record with learners

The TaDH benefits associated with supporting this initiative include:

- Mentoring senior paediatric residents
- Promoting the sustainability of the program with recruitment to the APP.