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# IMPACT News

*“Over the years the program has adapted to meet the adolescent needs/issues, and this includes other forms of impairment like driving and illicit drugs.”*

## It's Time For a Change

Has anyone really thought about IMPACT's acronym? Does it really matter?

Since 1989 IMPACT has stood for Impaired Minds Produce by Alcohol Cause Trauma, but recently it was suggested that maybe it was time for a change.

Most people only know IMPACT, and not it's acronym. But when stakeholders, new volunteers, peers and families heard of the acronym, it caused some confusion.

When the program was first introduced, it focused heavily on drinking and driving. Over the years the program has adapted to meet the adolescent needs/issues, and this includes other forms of impairment like illicit drugs and driving.

Therefore, the new IMPACT acronym will be changed to **Impaired Minds Produce Actions Causing Trauma**. A small but worthy change to the program...



## Focus Group Tests Revealed

Earlier in the year, IMPACT conducted focus groups with students for the purpose of evaluating the content and format of the new program. It is clear that IMPACT is still making a difference! Here are the focus group results major findings:

- ☀ **IMPACT's overall effectiveness rated 6.15 out of 7**
- ☀ **Overall mean average for value and interest in all components= 5.82 out of 7**
- ☀ **For more detailed information, contact [denise.polgar@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:denise.polgar@lhsc.on.ca)**



## New Parkwood Component Well Received

*Beal Secondary student Matt Davis gets a lift by rehabilitation program staff during the IMPACT program*

Parkwood Hospital's IMPACT program made a powerful first impression on launch day Jan. 18. Students from Beal Secondary School were the first participants through the program, which teaches teens about high-risk behaviour and the consequences of drinking and driving.

As a joint hospital initiative, the Grade 11 students spent the morning in various departments at London Health Sciences Centre, such as the critical care trauma centre, and then visited Parkwood for a glimpse of life after injury.

While half the program took place in a classroom setting, the students also had an opportunity to actually feel what it would be like to have limited movement and vision. Wearing oven mitts, hockey gloves and glasses that simulated limited vision, the students attempted to open packages, unwrap candies and straws, turn the pages of a magazine, use a TV remote control, put on clothing, work a computer keyboard, and eat with special utensils. They also saw the various products needed by individuals with spinal cord and brain injuries such as bladder control items and lifts.

"It's an eye opener, for sure," said Matt Davis. "While I've been around people with disabilities, it's different to get an idea of what it feels like."

"Parkwood is a key component in demonstrating to students that recovery from injury exists on a continuum," says social worker Adam Gosney of Parkwood's acquired brain injury rehabilitation program. "One may survive their trauma, but the consequences of their injuries often have a lifelong impact."

The next program is slated for April.

Courtesy of:

*Dahlia Reich  
Communication  
& Public Affairs  
St. Joseph's Health Care,  
London  
Parkwood Hospital*



*Tony Mayorga attempts mealtime with obstacles*

## OUTREACH CONTINUES: Ingersoll Pilot Program



IMPACT continues to expand into the rural areas. Alexandra Hospital is hosting a pilot program in May 2006.

Why are they putting their time and effort into an injury prevention program?

Lisa Gardner, Coordinator of the peripheral program says "Injury continues to be the number one killer for the people between the ages of 1-44. We need to continue our efforts in decreasing the risk of injury and death in all of our communities."

IMPACT welcomes Alexandra Hospital to the other peripheral programs in St. Thomas, Perth County and Tillsonburg.

