

Supervisor, Corporate Nursing Executive (CNE) and Chair, Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Report

October 2025

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Organizational Updates

Observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30), LHSC welcomed Elder Chris George from Oneida Nation of the Thames and Dr. Eva Jewell from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation as members of Team LHSC came together to support and stand in solidarity with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Urban Indigenous (FNIMU) patients, families, and communities. The knowledge and stories they shared were important to LHSC's work in health care and provided a meaningful way to improve cultural awareness across the organization. Dr. Jewell led Team LHSC through a session called *Why Reconciliation is All of Our Responsibility*, which discussed the progress and barriers to achieving the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, specifically related to health care, and explained how each member of Team LHSC can help advance Truth and Reconciliation. This event was organized by LHSC's Indigenous Health team, which supports ongoing education throughout the hospital.

LHSC introduces 4AT delirium screening tool

On September 15, 2025, health-care teams across LHSC's adult Medicine, Surgery, and Clinical Neurological Sciences inpatient units began using the 4AT delirium screening tool (also known as the "4 A's" test) to routinely screen patients who are at risk of experiencing delirium. The 4AT is a quick and easy tool that assesses four key areas: alertness, by asking patients their name or address; attention, by asking them to recite the months of the year or days of the week backward; abbreviated mental test, by asking them to confirm their age, date of birth, current location (such as the hospital name), and the current year; and acute change, by asking care partners or family members whether there has been a recent change in the patient's thinking or behavior. This screening tool helps better identify and support patients at risk of delirium and improves prevention and early intervention efforts. Delirium is a sudden change that causes confusion and uncharacteristic behavior. Once detected, it requires prompt medical attention.

LHSC launches Nursing Preceptor Development Workshop

LHSC's Nursing Practice Excellence and Innovation (NPEI) program has launched the Nursing Preceptorship Foundations Workshop to support preceptors in preparing nurses to deliver safe and compassionate patient care. This workshop is designed to enhance the skills and capacity of nurses to effectively support nursing learners, including new hires and nursing students, who

work under the supervision and guidance of an experienced preceptor. The workshop focuses on strategies for developing emotional intelligence, outlines the key roles and responsibilities of a nursing preceptor, and identifies effective ways to carry out these roles in the clinical setting. It also applies *Tanner's Model of Clinical Judgment* to support the development of clinical reasoning skills in preceptees. This initiative will play an important role in fostering a supportive learning environment for both students and staff as the province increases its capacity to educate and train more nursing students.

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC's September media exposure.

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 455

- Negative 3 (0.7%)
- Neutral 55 (12.1%)
- Positive 397 (87.3%)

Total audience reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): Approximately 475.3 million

Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): Approximately \$2.5 million

Top stories by reach:

- 104 million reached:
 - New dialysis filter shows promise for improving survival and health in kidney failure patients - MSN.com UK
- 16.1 million reached:
 - Dozens of properties allegedly bought in \$50M LHSC fraud scheme can now be sold -CBC London
- 16.1 million reached:
 - Q&A: Understanding the risks of treating women's pain during pregnancy CBC
 London
- 8.7 million reached:
 - LHSC celebrates 150 years of health care in London CTV London
- 8.7 million reached:

LHSC files \$20M statement of claim over UH window procurement – CTV London

Coverage analysis:

In September, the Communications and Public Engagement team facilitated six proactive stories, including a new statement of claim the organization has launched in relation to past procurement practices, LHSC's 150th anniversary celebration, the new Nurse Police Response Team program run in partnership with the London Police Service, a new dialysis clinical trial, and women's pain management. These stories received substantial coverage from both local and national media outlets. The team also responded to 18 additional media requests. This month demonstrated the ongoing interest in LHSC's operations and underscored the organization's role as a source of important safety and health messaging not just in our region, but also beyond.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 20 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in September. The content highlighted staff and patient stories, and hospital initiatives.

Total social media followers (across all platforms): 91,201 (+815 new followers, +.9%) *number of stakeholders/members of the public that see and have the potential to engage with LHSC's stories on a regular basis.

Total social media impressions: 548,188

*number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen

Total social media engagements: 30,521

*number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media

Top social media posts by engagement included:

- LHSC staff participates in the 2025 World Rowing Masters Regatta | Facebook
- Dr. Rod Lim's back to school safety message | Instagram
- LHSC 150 Anniversary Celebrations launch | LinkedIn

Social media analysis:

Content on LHSC's social media channels reflected our audience's appreciation for staff stories and hospital initiatives.

The positive response seen on the World Rowing Masters Regatta post reinforces that the community shows up for our staff and celebrates both their professional and personal accomplishments. Meanwhile, Dr. Lim's back-to-school safety message resonated with many as the video was timed with the first week of school and touched on not only preventing the spread of germs but ensuring good mental health as well.

The LHSC 150 Anniversary Celebration launch was a small piece of a larger campaign that audiences have been following this year. The post was well received by many as it kicked off a day of department tours, displays, and historical exhibits celebrating 150 years of great care, teaching, and research at LHSC.

New Women's Minor Procedure Room at LHSC takes the pain out of gynecologic procedures

LHSC's new Women's Minor Procedure Room (MPR) is changing the way women undergo common gynecologic procedures by prioritizing patient comfort and easing the pressure on operating rooms (ORs). The Women's MPR offers a range of procedures, including IUD insertions and removals, biopsies, pap smears, and pelvic exams for patients with a history of trauma as well as the option of conscious sedation to help patients remain awake but relaxed. These procedures were previously performed in clinics or the OR where pain management options beyond anesthesia were limited. The new Women's MPR offers a more comfortable and flexible experience. The entire visit can take less than an hour. By shifting cases out of the OR, it's also opening surgical time for patients with more complex needs, helping to reduce surgical wait times. To learn more, visit the LHSC website, watch the coverage by CTV London, or read the articles from The London Free Press and XFM News at Fanshawe College.

Clinical trial could help people with kidney failure live longer

Researchers at London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) and Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry have launched a clinical trial to evaluate a new type of dialysis filter called Elisio HX™ that could help patients with kidney failure live longer, healthier lives. The new filter is engineered to remove a broader range of toxins from the blood than standard dialysis filters and researchers will study whether it can improve survival. They will also study whether this kind of treatment reduces hospitalizations due to heart attacks, strokes, or infections and if patients feel better overall. The trial will include up to 4,800 patients across more than 100 dialysis units in Canada, including dialysis units at LHSC and its satellite locations in Chatham, Goderich, Hanover, Owen Sound, Sarnia, Stratford, Tillsonburg, and Woodstock. To learn more about this study, visit the LHSCRI website, watch

the national coverage on <u>CTV News</u> and <u>Global News</u>, view the local coverage from <u>CTV London</u>, or read the article by <u>106.9 The X</u>.

Clinical trial targets kidney cancer with internal radiation

A new clinical trial is offering hope to kidney cancer patients who are not eligible for surgery. Researchers at LHSCRI will treat up to 16 patients with kidney cancer from the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre at LHSC by inserting microscopic beads filled with radiation directly into blood vessels surrounding cancerous tumours. These beads can deliver 10 times more radiation than external radiation, targeting kidney cancer tumours from inside the body with a higher potential of destroying cancer cells while minimizing damage to surrounding organs. The study will assess the effectiveness of the treatment, including whether it shrinks tumours and prevents disease progression. To learn more about this study, visit the LHSCRI website, watch the national coverage by Global News (segment begins at 1:18 in the newscast), listen to the on-air interview with CBC Radio and 980 CFPL Global News Radio, or read the article by 106.9 the X.

LHSC physician discusses acetaminophen use during pregnancy

Dr. Janine Hutson, Obstetrician/Gynaecologist at LHSC and researcher at LHSCRI, recently spoke with <u>CBC London</u> about the use of acetaminophen during pregnancy. Dr. Hutson clarified there is currently no clear scientific evidence supporting a connection between acetaminophen use and autism. Dr. Hutson explained that leading health organizations, including the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), support the use of acetaminophen during pregnancy when needed. Dr. Hutson also emphasized the importance of open and informed conversations between health-care providers and patients about the risks and benefits of medications during pregnancy. To learn more about this topic, please visit the LHSC <u>website</u>.

LHSC physiotherapist brings home five medals from World Rowing Masters Regatta

LHSC Physiotherapist Carolyn Jaeger recently delivered a standout performance at the 2025 World Rowing Masters Regatta in Banyoles, Spain. Competing alongside her teammates from the London Western Rowing Club (LWRC), Carolyn helped secure an impressive 30th-place finish out of nearly 750 clubs from around the world. She raced in five events, earning three gold medals in the women's doubles and mixed quad events as well as two silver medals in the

mixed doubles and women's single sculls. Back home, her colleagues in the Physiotherapy Department at University Hospital held an early morning watch party to cheer her on during her first race. Everyone at LHSC is incredibly proud of her achievement. To learn more, please visit the LHSC website.

External Landscape

Ontario connecting 500,000 more people to a family doctor and primary care team

On September 22, 2025, the Ontario government launched a new <u>call for proposals</u> to create and expand approximately 75 interprofessional primary care teams to connect 500,000 more people with a primary care provider. This initiative is part of the \$2.1 billion <u>Primary Care Action Plan</u>, which seeks to ensure that every Ontarian has access to convenient, team-based care by 2029. The new and expanded teams will prioritize individuals who currently do not have access to primary care, including those on the Health Care Connect waitlist. As of January 1, 2025, the waitlist has decreased by more than 98,000 people, representing a reduction of over 42 per cent. The Ontario government expects to announce the successful teams in spring 2026 with additional opportunities to apply in future rounds of funding. To learn more, visit the Ontario government's <u>website</u>.

Ontario Health boosts nursing workforce with innovative program

Since 2022, Ontario Health's Supervised Practice Experience Partnership (SPEP) program has matched nearly 6,000 internationally educated nurses (IENs) and helped over 4,500 of them meet their evidence of practice and language proficiency requirements for registration while gaining critical experience on their journey to becoming nurses in Canada. With support from nearly 800 approved employers, including LHSC, the program is enhancing nurse recruitment, retention, and diversity across the province. SPEP has helped fill staffing gaps, supported career growth for IENs, and improved patient care outcomes, contributing to a stronger, more inclusive health-care system. The SPEP program is a partnership between the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), Ontario Health, and CNO-approved organizations. It offers applicants the option to complete a supervised practice experience in Ontario. To learn more, visit the Ontario Health's website.

Ontario bringing innovative new technologies to the health-care system faster

On September 4, 2025, the Ontario government launched the <u>Health Innovation Pathway</u>, a new process designed to accelerate the introduction of promising innovations into Ontario's health system and improve patient care. The pathway will establish a streamlined process for reviewing and adopting technologies such as medical devices and procedures, digital tools, medical imaging and screening, lab and genetic testing, and models of health-care delivery. It will prioritize made-in-Ontario innovations and ensure more patients receive world-class care close to home. To learn more, visit the Ontario government's website.

Government of Canada invests in research to inform better youth mental health and wellness services across the country

On September 2, 2025, the Government of Canada announced an investment of more than \$30 million to strengthen and expand the existing Integrated Youth Services Network of Networks (IYS-Net) to support youth mental health and wellness services across the country. This funding will advance research, data collection, and knowledge sharing within and across 12 provincial and territorial IYS networks, as well as a pan-Canadian Indigenous network, to identify which supports work best for young people. IYS hubs aim to provide youth aged 12 to 25 and their families with a single, accessible place to find help with mental health, substance use, physical health, housing, peer support, and other essential services.