



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

October 2026

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Organizational Updates

Observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, LHSC's Indigenous Health team hosted two educational sessions that encouraged members of Team LHSC to deepen their understanding of Truth and Reconciliation and the role they play in advancing culturally safe care. On September 23, Nikki George, Indigenous Cultural Safety Specialist from Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre, led a session focused on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, cultural safety, accountability, and relationship-building. On September 30, Dr. Vanessa Ambtman-Smith explored how Traditional Healing Spaces can support Indigenous sovereignty, cultural safety, and healing within health-care settings. Together, the sessions provided meaningful opportunities for staff, physicians, learners, and volunteers to reflect, learn, and strengthen their commitment to improving care and experiences for Indigenous patients, families, and communities.

LHSC completes Canadian first using "heart in a box" technology for cardiac transplantation

LHSC has completed a Canadian-first heart transplant using the TransMedics Organ Care System, often referred to as a "heart in a box," which keeps donor hearts warm, oxygenated, and beating outside the body during transport. The procedure allowed the transplant team to successfully implant a donor heart that may not have otherwise been suitable for transplantation, marking a significant advancement in organ donation and transplant care. The provincially shared technology extends preservation times, enables organs to be transported over greater distances, and has the potential to expand the donor pool for patients awaiting lifesaving transplants. The milestone builds on LHSC's leadership in cardiac transplantation and reflects ongoing collaboration with Ontario Health and the Trillium Gift of Life Network to improve access to transplant opportunities. [Read more on the LHSC website.](#)

Updated visiting guideline helps patients, care partners, and visitors know what to expect

LHSC has [updated its care partner and visiting guideline](#) to create a more consistent experience across hospital sites, informed by feedback from patients, families, staff, and patient and family

partners. The guideline clarifies the role of care partners, who are identified by patients to provide support with communication, decision-making, care planning, and transitions in care, and distinguishes them from general visitors. The updated guideline also outlines expectations during outbreaks or periods of heightened infectious illness risk, when visiting procedures may be adjusted, and reinforces infection prevention requirements. Overall, the changes are intended to improve clarity, support patient-centred care, and help patients, care partners, visitors, and care teams better understand what to expect during a hospital stay

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 407

- Positive – 94.3%
- Neutral – 5.7%
- Negative – 0%

Total Audience Reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): Approximately 153 million

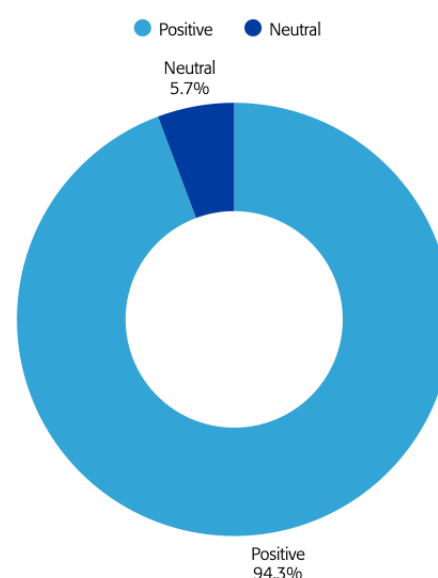
Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): Approximately \$713K

Top Stories by Reach:

- CBC London - [The future of heart transplants is here with 'heart in a box'](#) - 15.8M
- CTV London - [London study tests fecal transplant capsules for anorexia patients](#) - 7.6M
- CTV London - [London patient a Canadian first for 'heart in a box' transplant](#) - 7.6M
- CTV London - [Western Homecoming brings football, festivities and heightened safety measures for weekend](#) - 7.6M
- The Globe and Mail - [Novel 'heart in a box' technology gives London, Ont., patient 'second life'](#) - 4.3M

Coverage Analysis:

September proved to be a busy month for the Communications and Public Engagement team as it shared four proactive stories with local media: a targeted pitch on the reduction in the



[screening age for colorectal cancer](#), the importance of infants receiving [RSV prophylaxis](#) heading into respiratory season, an exciting new study examining the impact of [fecal microbiota transplants](#) on patients with anorexia and a [Canadian-first "heart in a box" transplant](#). The fecal microbiota transplant study and “heart in a box” stories captured not only local interest, but also the attention of national reporters leading to coverage from coast to coast. Storytelling by our colleagues at London Health Sciences Foundation about a [generous donation to LHSC’s cardiac care program](#) by the Spriet family also received strong local coverage.

The Communications and Public Engagement team received 11 reactive media requests this month.

Social media report

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 16 pieces of content across LHSC’s social media platforms in September, highlighting patient and staff stories, hospital initiatives, and community-focused messaging on colon cancer screening, protecting newborns from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and Homecoming safety.

Total social media followers (across all platforms): 100,191 (+687 new followers, +.7%)

*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: 737,040

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

Total social media engagements: 36,611

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

Top social media posts by engagement included:

1. A feature story highlighting the first Canadian heart transplant using the TransMedics Organ Care System | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
2. A photo celebrating LHSC patient Maria Medeiros’ 37 years of dialysis treatment | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
3. Photos of LHSC paediatric patient Claire over the years with Mark Browning, an Aide in the Paediatric Medical Day Unit, and Ollie, the Children's Hospital's therapeutic clown | [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
4. A video spotlighting the Visiting Elders program at LHSC | [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Social media analysis

Social media audiences connected with a number of patient and staff stories and hospital initiatives in September, including a Canadian-first heart transplant story, a patient celebrating

37 years of dialysis treatment, a heartwarming childhood cancer journey, and a feature on LHSC's Visiting Elders program.

Our most popular post spotlighted the first Canadian heart transplant using the TransMedics Organ Care System (OCS), often referred to as a "heart in a box." Unlike traditional cold storage, which preserves an organ using ice, the system keeps a donor heart warm, beating and perfused with oxygenated blood after circulatory death. The milestone procedure marked an important step forward in organ donation and transplantation, with many commenters expressing amazement at the technology and congratulating LHSC on this remarkable achievement.

Audiences also celebrated LHSC patient Maria Medeiros' 37 years of dialysis treatment, recognizing her strength and resilience throughout her journey with kidney disease. Living with kidney disease can have a profound impact on a person's life, and Maria's story served as an inspiration to others affected by the disease.

Other popular stories included a heartwarming feature on LHSC paediatric patient Claire's cancer journey and the special bond she formed with Mark Browning, Aide in the Paediatric Medical Day Unit, and Ollie, the Children's Hospital's therapeutic clown, as well as a video highlighting LHSC's Visiting Elders program, which connects patients, families, staff, and care teams with Elders from local First Nations communities who provide teachings, ceremony, Traditional medicines, counselling, and cultural support.

Content from LHSCRI also continued to see positive engagement and growth. As of the end of September, there were 5,631 followers across all platforms, generating more than 4,000 impressions during the month.

Dr. Michael Sey talks new colon cancer screening age

Ontario has lowered the starting age for routine colorectal cancer screening from 50 to 45 for people at average risk, responding to a growing number of diagnoses among younger adults. In a [recent LHSC interview](#), gastroenterologist and Regional Colon Cancer Screening Lead Dr. Michael Sey explained that people born in more recent generations face a higher risk of developing colon cancer, with approximately 10 to 15 per cent of cases now occurring in patients under 50. Eligible Ontarians can access a free fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every two years through their primary care provider or Health811, and abnormal results are followed by a colonoscopy. Dr. Sey emphasized that screening is intended for people without symptoms and is critical for detecting cancer early, when it is most preventable and treatable.

Ask the Expert: Why is RSV prophylaxis recommended for newborns?

As respiratory illness season approaches, LHSC is encouraging parents to consider RSV prophylaxis for newborns and infants, highlighting new publicly funded options that can significantly reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalization. [In an expert Q&A](#), Erin Fleischer, nurse practitioner and lead of LHSC's RSV Immunization Clinic, explains that RSV can cause serious respiratory complications in babies, including bronchiolitis and pneumonia, even among otherwise healthy infants. She notes that increased use of RSV prevention measures over the past two years has contributed to fewer severe cases and hospital admissions, helping to preserve pediatric hospital capacity and reduce pressure on emergency departments.

Defying the odds: Renal patient celebrates 37 years on dialysis

A [story published to LHSC's website](#) features Maria Medeiros, who has been receiving dialysis through LHSC's Renal Program since 1989 after being diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease. Over nearly four decades, she has undergone three unsuccessful kidney transplants, raised a family, and continued regular dialysis treatment, highlighting both the challenges of living with chronic kidney disease and the impact of long-term specialized care. The story also highlights significant advances in renal care over the past 37 years, including improved access to dialysis, home-based treatment options, virtual care, transplantation, and earlier interventions aimed at slowing disease progression and improving patients' quality of life.

Could these pills help people with anorexia? A new study aims to find out

A new clinical trial is investigating whether fecal microbiota transplant (FMT) capsules can help treat anorexia nervosa. The study is based on growing evidence linking gut bacteria to brain function, eating behaviours, and self-perception, with researchers exploring whether restoring a healthier gut microbiome could improve nutrition, food-related decision-making, and mental health outcomes. The trial reflects LHSC's continued leadership in innovative microbiome research, with the potential to open new treatment options for a condition that remains difficult to treat and has limited therapeutic interventions. [Read more on the LHSCRI website](#).

Spreading joy through Great Moments

A [patient story from Children's Hospital](#) at LHSC highlights the lasting impact that non-clinical support can have on children and families navigating serious illness. The story follows seven-year-old Claire Nicholson, who has undergone leukemia treatment and two relapses, and the meaningful relationships she formed with Mark Browning, an aide in the Paediatric Medical Day Unit, and Ollie, the hospital's therapeutic clown. Through play, companionship, and emotional support, they helped create moments of normalcy, comfort, and joy during an otherwise difficult cancer journey, underscoring the importance of holistic, child-centred care and the role staff and supportive programming play in the patient and family experience.

Finding the right path: How the GRACE Clinic helps older adults make informed decisions about surgery

The GRACE Clinic, a partnership between LHSC and St. Joseph's Health Care London, is helping older adults make more informed decisions about major surgery by bringing together surgeons, geriatricians, patients, and care partners to assess surgical risks, frailty, functional status, and personal goals. The clinic's collaborative whole-person approach supports patients in determining whether surgery aligns with their desired quality of life and, when appropriate, develops individualized plans to optimize health before surgery. The program highlights a unique cross-organizational model of care that is improving decision-making for medically complex older adults while ensuring treatment plans reflect patient priorities and values. [Read more on the LHSC website.](#)

Good medicine: LHSC's Visiting Elders program brings culture, connection, and healing to patients

LHSC's Visiting Elders program is expanding access to culturally grounded care for Indigenous patients by connecting them with Elders who provide teachings, ceremony, Traditional medicines, spiritual guidance, and cultural support as part of the healing journey. Launched in 2022 and supported by LHSC's Indigenous Healing and Cultural Practices Policy, the program is a key component of the organization's broader Indigenous Health strategy and efforts to advance Truth and Reconciliation in health care. A [story published to the LHSC website](#) highlights how Elder support can help patients reconnect with culture, address the impacts of historical trauma, and build trust in the health system, while reinforcing LHSC's commitment to culturally safe, Indigenous-led care developed in partnership with local Indigenous communities.

External Landscape

Preparing for respiratory illness season

The Ministry of Health has [released its 2026–2027 Seasonal Respiratory Pathogen Guide](#) to help hospitals and health-care organizations prepare for the fall and winter respiratory illness season. The guide supports planning for influenza, RSV, COVID-19, and other respiratory viruses, while [Ontario has also launched its annual immunization program](#), with flu and COVID-19 vaccines already available to high-risk groups and then to the general public beginning October 26. Eligible Ontarians can also access RSV immunization programs. Together, these efforts help hospitals prepare for increased demand, protect vulnerable people from serious illness, and support continued access to safe, timely care throughout the respiratory illness season.

Ontario expands access to primary care

Ontario has [launched a new round of funding](#) to create and expand primary care teams, investing \$250 million to help connect 600,000 more people to a family doctor or primary care provider. This is part of the province's plan to ensure everyone in Ontario has access to primary care by 2029. Expanded primary care access means better access to routine check-ups, preventive care, chronic disease management, and support closer to home, helping people get the care they need before their health concerns require emergency department or hospital services.

IPC Annual Report highlights emerging regulatory priorities for the health sector

Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) has identified responsible artificial intelligence, enhanced health-sector privacy protections, governance of emerging technologies, and accountability in digital environments as key regulatory priorities. The [2025 Annual Report](#) underscores growing expectations for health-care organizations to embed privacy-by-design principles, demonstrate strong governance and oversight, and proactively manage risks associated with data use and emerging technologies. For LHSC, these evolving expectations reinforce the need for robust privacy governance, clear approval and risk assessment processes, and ongoing compliance monitoring as digital health and AI initiatives advance. Maintaining alignment with IPC priorities will help safeguard public trust, support regulatory compliance, and position the organization for increased scrutiny of technology-enabled care and innovation.

August 2026 Hospital Data Transformation and Data Quality Developments

In August 2026, CIHI published acute care updates focused on strengthening hospital data infrastructure and data quality, including its [Hospital Data Transformation](#) initiative and the [2025–2026 Discharge Abstract Database](#) closed-year data quality documentation. These developments emphasize the importance of timely, integrated, and high-quality acute care data to support early detection of trends, health system innovation, performance monitoring, and reliable decision-making across hospitals.

Ontario nursing supply continues to grow

The College of Nurses of Ontario's [2026 nursing registration report](#) shows continued growth in the provincial nursing supply, with 197,020 nurses renewing their registration, a net increase of 3.2 per cent. Ontario nursing graduates remain the primary source of growth, while registrations from other provinces have also risen substantially. Despite the overall growth, emerging workforce considerations include a decline in the proportion of new RNs and RPNs reporting full-time employment and an increase in new nurses reporting that they are seeking nursing work. Among new RNs, this proportion increased from 17 per cent in 2025 to 22.5 per cent in 2026; among newly registered internationally educated nurses, it rose from 22 per cent to 31.4 per cent. For Ontario's health system, these trends suggest that growth in the available nursing supply may not be translating consistently into full-time employment, reinforcing the need for continued attention to recruitment, employment models, and effective workforce utilization.