



News and Updates from The Mississippi River Health Alliance

Almonte General Hospital • Fairview Manor
Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital
Lanark County Paramedic Service

Integrated Care

We are excited to announce that the **AGH/CPDMH Clinical Services Plan** has been approved by both Boards.

This plan sets out a vision for clinical services at both hospitals, with the ultimate goal to deliver excellent health care and services to our communities. It identifies ways to align our programs and ensure the right services are available close to home.

Thank you to everyone who provided input. Six advisory panels - comprised of Board members, staff, medical staff (which includes midwives), volunteers, patient & family advisors and community representatives - provided advice to the AGH and CPDMH Boards who developed the plan.

THE PLAN - AT A GLANCE

The new plan builds on the existing strengths of the two organizations.

- The **core services** of Emergency Department, Medical/Surgical Unit, Diagnostic Imaging Department and Perioperative Services will remain in each hospital.
- Each organization already has **areas of specialization**, which serve our shared catchment area. These will be maintained and will grow as our population and the needs of our population grow.
 - At Almonte General Hospital (AGH), these include the Obstetrics and Complex Continuing Care units as well as Urology and Gynecology surgery.
 - At Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH), they include the Ambulatory Care and Telemedicine programs, along with Orthopedic and ENT surgery.
- The data shows a **growing need for General Surgery** which can be enhanced in in both hospitals.

NEXT STEPS

Many initiatives are already underway including Community Paramedicine, the recruitment of an additional Obstetrician/Gynecologist, and the CPDMH Emergency Department redevelopment. Several priorities have also been identified for year one such as common processes for booking and scheduling, enhancing the general surgery program, and introducing restorative care.

By working together, we can only strengthen the partnership and the services offered close to home. The Mississippi River Health Alliance is creating a stronger voice for local health care.



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Pandemic Update

Thank you to everyone who is working together to keep everyone safe. Here are a few updates:

- We have introduced a mandatory vaccination policy for all employees, physicians, volunteers, learners, contractors, and new hires. We have a duty and commitment to protect the health and safety of our staff, patients, and visitors. Getting vaccinated remains the most effective way to do this.
- In addition, all visitors to AGH and CPDMH must be fully vaccinated. This new policy aligns with the provincial vaccination directions for healthcare and other organizations. Full details can be found on the hospital websites at www.agh-fvm.com/visitors and www.cpdmh.ca/visitors.
- The AGH, CPDMH, and LCPS teams continue to support the COVID-19 Vaccination Centre located in the Octagon Room at AGH. For the latest updates about COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and booster shots, please visit the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit website at www.healthunit.org.
- And please remember to get your flu shot. It is the most effective way to protect yourself and others against the flu. The flu shot has been approved for use alongside COVID-19 vaccines and is a key step in keeping healthy.



New Roles

Congratulations to **Amanda Becking**, who is the new Director of Care at Fairview Manor. With 30 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, Amanda has practiced in various care settings, including Almonte General Hospital. Amanda has served as the Assistant Director of Care at Fairview Manor since 2018.

Crystal Newman has joined the FVM team as Assistant Director of Care. As a Registered Nurse, Crystal has practiced in various care settings, including Perth and Smiths Falls Hospital and Dundas Manor in Winchester. Crystal holds a Bachelor of Nursing Science Degree from Laurentian University and a Masters in Nursing from Dalhousie University.



Community Support

The **Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS)** is pleased to be partnering with Home Hospice North Lanark to provide a range of services to clients in their homes through the Community Paramedicine Program. The program offers services such as wellness checks, needs/risk assessments, COVID-19 testing and vaccines, and health education.



“The service will greatly cut down on trips to the ED for our clients,” said Sidney Thomson, HHNL’s Coordinator of Visiting Volunteers, “and will allow clients to remain at home for as long as possible, which is the ultimate goal.”

“We are excited to be working with the Home Hospice North Lanark team to provide this service,” added LCPS Acting Commander Janice Steele. “Our local paramedics answer the call with dedication, professionalism, and commitment. Earlier this year, the Ontario government provided funding to expand our Community Paramedicine Program, building on a successful pilot program.”

This service is vital to helping clients remain safe and at home.



Have a Look!

Planning for Stage 4 of the new CPDMH Emergency Department (ED) is underway. We are pleased to be able to publicly announce Ministry of Health approval of CPDMH’s Stage 3.2 submission. This paves the way for the Stage 4 submission which the CPDMH team began working on in the Spring.

“Planning during a pandemic has not been easy, but it has also provided us with valuable information,” notes Randy Shaw, Integrated Vice President of Corporate Support Services and Capital Projects. “During our focus groups with staff and physicians, we discussed the impact of COVID-19 and refined our plans based on these learnings.”

“This is wonderful news, and we are thankful to the Ministry of Health team for their collaboration,” sums up Board Chair Carol Anne Esnard. “The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our timeline, but not our enthusiasm as we plan for a new state-of-the-art Emergency Department to care for our local communities.”

Improving Quality & Safety

Our 2021/22 Joint Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) builds on the success of the Mississippi River Health Alliance by aligning the QIP initiatives for both hospitals and Fairview Manor (FVM). This collaboration ensures consistent quality and allows the two hospitals to learn from one another and improve together.

Improving patient safety through **Medication Reconciliation** across care transitions at AGH and CPDMH is one of the QIP initiatives for 2021/22. Care transitions occur at admission, when a patient is transferred to another area of the hospital (such as from the Emergency Department to the Inpatient Medical/Surgical Unit), and at discharge.

Medication Reconciliation is conducted in partnership with patients and families to communicate accurate and complete information about medications. It is a safety best practice designed to identify and rectify any discrepancies before they cause harm, and to ensure the communication of accurate and complete medication information at care transitions.



As a community, you can help support this important safety initiative process and be involved in your care by bringing a current list of medications with you every time you come to the hospital.

New Physicians in Almonte

This year, we were pleased to welcome two new physicians at Almonte General Hospital.

Dr. Anca Matei joins the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has a special interest in maternal health, benign surgical gynecology, family planning, and cervical cancer prevention. Patients need to be referred to Dr. Matei by a family doctor, nurse practitioner, or another specialist. For more information, call 613-256-8598.

Dr. Melanie Fortune has joined the Ottawa Valley Family Health Team, taking over the practice of Dr. Heather Abramenko. She is a familiar face at the Ottawa Valley Family Health Team and AGH, and we are happy to have her back home. In addition to her practice at the Family Health Team, Dr. Fortune cares for her own patients when they are admitted to hospital. She delivers babies, provides post-partum care to women, and cares for newborns in hospital as part of the Family Medicine Obstetrics team.

To learn more about the Ottawa Valley Family Medicine Obstetrics team (FMOB), visit www.ottawavalleyfmob.ca.



Scoring Big for Local Hospitals



Players with the Mississippi Mills Senior Hockey team donated \$2,000 to local hospitals following their game on November 23rd. The group, which plays Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Carleton Place arena, had some surplus funds accumulated over the years and decided to give \$1,000 to both the Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor (AGH FVM) Foundation and the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) Foundation.

The team, which originally evolved from the Almonte Old Timers, boasts more than 24 regulars and approximately 16 spares, ranging in age from the mid-50s to about 80 years old. CPDMH Foundation Robyn Arseneau and AGH FVM Foundation Al Roberts thanked the players for their generous support of quality health care close to home. Both Foundations count on the generosity of community organizations, companies and individuals, like this group of dedicated hockey players, to contribute funds used to purchase new or replacement equipment at both hospitals and the manor.

If your team, group or company would like to support either of the hospital Foundations (or both), please call CPDMH Foundation at: 613-257-GIVE (4483) or AGH FVM Foundation at: 613-256-2500 ext. 2610.

If you have questions about the **Mississippi River Health Alliance**, please contact Mary Wilson Trider, President & CEO
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If you wish to connect regarding a compliment or concern,

www.agh-fvm.com/complimentsandconcerns • www.cpdmh.ca/complimentsandconcerns

