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RVH staff chosen for exclusive national program

A team from Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is one of only 11 from across the country selected for the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement's (CFHI) EXTRA program.

During the 14-month program RVH's team - comprised of Dana Naylor, operations director; Tricia Swartz, director of Patient Safety, Quality and Risk Management; Jonathan Wiersma, director of Decision Support and Nancy Corcoran, nurse practitioner, Geriatrics - will study and implement initiatives at RVH which will enhance patient outcomes, as well as improve the quality of care and cost-effectiveness.

The members of the RVH team have decided to focus their studies on seniors, given the growing population of older residents in Simcoe Muskoka. The project, entitled *Smooth Transitions: A redesign of geriatric inpatient services*, is an initiative focused on evaluating current geriatric services and applying evidence-based practices to improve the quality of geriatric services within RVH.

"It is such an honour to be given this unique opportunity to become change agents in healthcare improvement," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "RVH's **MY CARE** philosophy states that our patients are at the centre of everything we do. Through this educational opportunity, RVH aims to improve clinical outcomes, reduce the length of stay and the number of geriatric patients who become designated Alternate Level of Care (ALC). The overall impact to RVH and the region will be to create positive patient flow and improved quality outcomes for patients."

Team member Tricia Swartz says this program is truly a one-of-a-kind opportunity both personally and professionally. She is excited about the project as it will ultimately have a direct impact on patient care.

"Geriatric service re-design has been noted by RVH as a priority. With the baby boomer generation aging, health care organizations need to be innovative and focused on evidence-based, patient-centric care that ensures the best possible health outcomes for seniors," says Swartz.

Without senior-friendly processes in place, seniors tend to have higher rates of adverse events, surgical complications, and infections.

"The results of our project will hopefully enable seniors to live a higher quality of life within their community longer, reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and avoidable admissions to the hospital, as well as reduce early admission to the residential care system," adds team member Nancy Corcoran.

Cutline: Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) representatives (from left) – Dana Naylor, Nancy Corcoran, Jonathan Wiersma and Tricia Swartz - have been selected for the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement's (CFHI) EXTRA program during which they will study and implement initiatives at RVH to enhance patient outcomes, as well as improve the quality of care and cost-effectiveness.

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