

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is taking place between KGH and Hotel Dieu?

The Board of Directors of Kingston General Hospital (KGH) and Hotel Dieu Hospital (HDH) have agreed to create a new integrated academic health sciences centre that will bring together the operations of the two hospitals. The new organization will operate as one hospital with one budget, on two separate sites, and will be overseen by one Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive team.

Why are you integrating the hospitals?

The two Boards chose this direction as way to provide better, more integrated acute care for patients and families. This is an exciting, progressive approach to providing care. Many of our patients receive care at both HDH and KGH and we believe that the more closely we work together, the better experience we will deliver for patients, families and staff. There will also be the added benefit of a reduction in duplication between the two sites. For example, we will only need to produce one Quality Improvement Plan, one budget and undertake one accreditation process to name just a few examples.

Who will lead the new organization?

HDH's current Chief Executive Officer, Dr. David Pichora, will be the inaugural President and CEO of the new academic health science centre. The Boards of both hospitals and a selection committee carefully considered the needs of the new organization and felt that as a practicing physician who works at both KGH and HDH, in combination with his administrative role at HDH, Dr. Pichora was the ideal person to lead this new organization. His experience bridges both hospitals from an administrative, clinical and academic perspective and he embodies the already existing integration between the two hospitals.

How quickly will this process unfold?

Over the next several months, the hospitals will begin formal planning to establish the legal and operational structures for the new academic health sciences centre. During this time, the Interim CEO at KGH, Jim Flett, and Dr. Pichora, in his role as CEO at HDH, will work closely together to develop a transition plan. A joint team will be charged with leading this process and will also be engaging with the community to seek their input. It is anticipated that it will take up to 12 months to form the new corporation, at which time Dr. Pichora will assume the role of CEO.

Who approved this integration?

The choice to move forward with the integration was reached by both hospitals after consultation with the South East Local Health Integration Network, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, as well as the Roman Catholic sponsors of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Catholic Health International. With their support and with the agreement in principle of Kingston Archbishop Brendan O'Brien there is clear consensus in moving forward with the integration.

Will Hotel Dieu Hospital maintain its Catholic identity?

We remain committed to honouring the unique missions and cultures of both sites as we move forward. The Hotel Dieu site will retain its Catholic identity and mission, and KGH will remain a secular site.

Is this being done to save money?

This is first and foremost about making a bold step for our community to improve the experience of patients and families by delivering better and more coordinated care. We believe that by integrating our hospitals we will provide more efficient care that may also result in some financial savings.

Will there be any reduction in services?

There are no plans to reduce the services offered on either site. Under the new entity, each site will continue to fulfill its unique role with the KGH site providing complex-acute and specialty care and the HDH site providing acute-ambulatory care. The services currently offered by KGH and HDH will continue to be offered by the new academic health science centre and we will continue to preserve, respect and honour the unique missions and cultures of both sites as we work more closely together.

Will this impact jobs?

It is too early to know if there will be any specific impact on jobs, however we do know that we will continue to deliver all of the services we currently offer to patients and families. That means we will continue to need the individuals who currently provide this care. We do anticipate there will be a reorganization of the management structure within the new academic health sciences centre.

As this process unfolds we will regularly provide updates to our staff, unions and all our stakeholders to ensure that they are aware of changes that are taking place. We are also committed to providing them with the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas with us as the process unfolds.

What is Health Care Tomorrow and how does it impact this integration?

Health Care Tomorrow: Hospital Services, is a project that has been undertaken by the seven hospitals in our region (KGH, HDH, Providence Care, Quinte Health Care, Brockville General Hospital, Lennox and Addington General Hospital and Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital) along with the South East Local Health Integration Network, the Community Care Access Centre and the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University. Together these organizations are looking for opportunities to share services on a regional level.

While the KGH and HDH integration announcement is not directly linked to the work that was started as part of Health Care Tomorrow, the project did serve as a helpful starting point for conversations as we began to look at integrating ourselves and deepening the partnership between our two hospitals. Our local integration plan is consistent with the intent of Health Care Tomorrow, which is to provide high quality, patient-centred and efficient services to patients in the South East.