

January 7, 2011

Media Release: For immediate release

G&M Hospital Implements Visitor Restrictions On Medical Unit

Collingwood, ON

Over the past few days, officials at the G&M Hospital have been closely monitoring an increase in patients in the Medical Unit suffering from gastrointestinal problems such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

To reduce spread of this illness, the Medical Unit has been closed to new inpatient admissions. **The unit is also now closed to all visitors.**

“We understand that closing the unit to visitors is very difficult for patients as they rely on the support of family and friends when hospitalized,” says Norah Holder, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer. “However, in order to quickly contain and control this outbreak, it is essential that we stop the flow of people going in and out of our Medical unit.”

The Hospital is working with the Simcoe/Muskoka Public Health Unit to determine the extent of the spread of this illness and the Provincial Lab to identify organism.

The Hospital will work with families who have compassionate reasons for coming to the Medical Unit. The G&M encourages family and friends to keep in touch with patients via telephone and email. Emails to patients can be sent through the Hospital’s website www.cgmh.on.ca.

Outpatient services (including Diagnostic Imaging and Ambulatory Care clinics) remain open at this time, however if anyone is ill for any reason, they are being asked to refrain from coming to the Hospital.

“We are committed to keeping our community informed,” says Linda Davis, President & CEO. “As more information becomes available, we will share it with our community.”

The best way to prevent spread of this illness is through diligent hand washing.

If you have any questions about this release please contact Norah Holder, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital at 444.8641.

Collingwood G&M Hospital (G&M) is a 72-bed hospital located in Collingwood, Ontario (approximately 90 minutes north of Toronto) that serves more than 60,000 permanent residents and 2.5 Million annual visitors to the communities of Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, Stayner, Creemore and the Blue Mountains. The G&M is an acute care hospital providing emergency care, diagnostic services including lab, imaging and cardio respiratory therapy, as well as two inpatient units (medicine and surgery). In addition, the G&M also provides care in speciality areas including obstetrics, orthopaedics, intensive care and surgery. The Hospital also provides out patient care including dialysis and a wide range of clinics including mental health and rehabilitation services. The G&M continues to provide care close to home for our community and plays a key role as an integrated orthopaedic centre for our region. For more information please visit our website at www.cgmh.on.ca and our Foundation website at www.cgmhf.com

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