



# The Child Health Network

for the Greater Toronto Area

*How it all began...*

*Building a regional health system that will improve the health and quality of life for mothers, infants, children and youth in the GTA*

The concept of a child health network has a long history. In the 1970s and 1980s, a number of pressures underscored the need to rationalize and regionalize services for mothers, newborns and children to ensure appropriate and timely access to care. Some of these pressures included:

- Number of maternal/newborn transfers sent out of the region
- Demand on tertiary obstetrical beds and appropriateness of use
- Fragmentation of child and adolescent services
- Lack of a systems approach to planning and development of services
- Human resource shortages
- Inconsistent care standards

A number of key planning initiatives from the Toronto District Health Council, the Health Services Restructuring Commission, the Hospital for Sick Children, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care have guided the development of CHN. Today, much of the impetus to improve the coordination and integration of services is generated by members of the Network.

The CHN is a **partnership** of community and hospital providers working together to build an accessible, family-centered, high-quality **regionalized health system** for mothers, newborns, children and youth across the GTA.

Membership of the Network includes 20 hospitals that provide maternal/newborn, paediatric acute and rehabilitative services, and 10 Community Care Access Centres (CCACs).

Together, Network members have the collective ability required to bring about significant change that would be difficult for any single organization to achieve. It does this by pooling member resources, expertise, experience and ideas, and generating creative and effective solutions to current challenges. The Network also works with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to make the changes necessary to improve service delivery, service outcomes, research and education.



*Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre ~ CCAC of Halton ~ CCAC of Peel ~ CCAC of York Region ~ Durham Access to Care ~ East York Access Centre ~ Etobicoke CCAC ~ Halton Healthcare Services ~ Humber River Regional Hospital ~ Lakeridge Health Corporation ~ Markham Stouffville Hospital ~ Mount Sinai Hospital ~ North York CCAC ~ North York General Hospital ~ Rouge Valley Health System ~ St. Joseph's Health Centre ~ St. Michael's Hospital ~ Scarborough CCAC ~ Southlake Regional Health Centre ~ Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre ~ The Credit Valley Hospital ~ The Hospital for Sick Children ~ The Scarborough Hospital ~ Toronto CCAC ~ Toronto East General Hospital ~ Trillium Health Centre ~ University Health Network ~ William Osler Health Centre ~ York Central Hospital ~ York CCAC*

*Our Members*

# *The right care in the right place - helping families make the right choices*

A fundamental goal of the Network is to facilitate the development of a strong **regional system** of maternal/newborn and children's services across the GTA that will best meet the needs of patients and their families. The vision of creating a regional system of care is based on developing strong relationships between organizations offering different **levels of care** according to the **complexity of patient need**. Effective operation of the *regional network* requires that patients and families access the right level of care at the right time.



## *The designated levels for children's services are:*

### **1 ACUTE CARE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL / SHORT STAY UNITS**

The Scarborough Hospital (General and Grace sites)  
Rouge Valley Health System (Ajax-Pickering Site)  
York Central Hospital  
Markham-Stouffville Hospital  
William Osler Health Centre (Etobicoke site)  
Trillium Health Centre  
Halton Healthcare Services

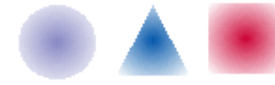


*The goal of these centres is to provide care as close to the patient's home as possible. They provide primary and ambulatory care in short stay units to children with a limited acuity of illness and a high probability of discharge within 48 hours.*

### **2**

#### **REGIONAL CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTRES**

North York General Hospital  
Rouge Valley Health System (Centenary site)  
Toronto East General Hospital  
St. Joseph's Health Centre  
Humber River Regional Hospital (Finch site)  
Lakeridge Health Corporation (Oshawa site)  
Southlake Regional Health Centre  
William Osler Health Centre (Brampton site)  
The Credit Valley Hospital



*The goal of these centres is to provide care for children who have more complex health problems and require the expertise of multi-disciplinary teams including paediatric subspecialists*

### **3**

#### **TERTIARY CARE CENTRES**

##### **Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre**

*A tertiary provincial facility providing developmental, complex continuing care and rehabilitation services including inpatient, day, outpatient and outreach services throughout the GTA and primary/secondary rehabilitation services to the local community.*

##### **The Hospital for Sick Children**

*A tertiary provincial facility providing acute paediatric services including inpatient tertiary level medical and/or surgical services throughout the GTA and primary/secondary services to the local community.*

## *The Importance of Community Partners*

The involvement of Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) is integral to building a regionalized system of care for mothers, newborns and children. CCACs arrange for professional health care and personal support services for eligible children who have a short or long-term illness, a physical disability or require assistance due to an injury or a recent hospital stay. Services may be provided in the home and/or school setting.

# Helping to improve care for mothers and newborns across the GTA

## 1

### Level I Maternal and Newborn Centres

Halton Healthcare Services Corporation (Milton Site)  
Humber River Regional Hospital (Church site)  
Lakeridge Health Corporation (Uxbridge, Bowmanville and Port Perry sites)  
Rouge Valley Health System (Ajax/Pickering site)  
William Osler Health Centre (Georgetown site)

*These centres meet the needs of women with healthy pregnancies.  
This level of care is provided by all hospitals with obstetrics.*

## 2

### Level II Maternal and Newborn Centres

Halton Healthcare Services Corporation (Oakville site)  
Humber River Regional Hospital (Finch site)  
Markham-Stouffville Hospital  
Scarborough Hospital (General and Grace sites)  
St. Joseph's Health Centre  
St. Michael's Hospital  
Southlake Regional Health Centre  
Toronto East General Hospital  
Trillium Health Centre  
York Central Hospital

*These centres manage the care of mother and newborns at low to moderate risk.*

*These centres have functional capabilities provided by Level I centres.*

### Advanced Level II Maternal and Newborn Centres

Lakeridge Health Corporation (Oshawa site)  
North York General Hospital (General site)  
Rouge Valley Health System (Centenary site)  
The Credit Valley Hospital  
William Osler Health Centre (Brampton site)

*These centres manage moderate risk obstetrical and medical problems and carry out fetal diagnostic testing. They also manage moderately ill newborns with medical problems that are expected to resolve rapidly, including short term assisted ventilation (48 hours), and parenteral nutrition.*

*These centres have functional capabilities provided by Level I and Level II centres.*

## 3

### Level III Maternal/Newborn Centres

Mount Sinai Hospital  
Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre  
The Hospital for Sick Children

*These centres provide:*

- subspecialty care for high-risk pregnancies;
- care for unwell, unstable newborns;
- care for mothers with severe medical complications;
- care for infants with anticipated complicated antenatal genetic or fetal anomalies that require immediate medical or surgical interventions.

*These centres have functional capabilities provided by Level I, Level II and Advanced Level II centres*



## Making a Difference!

The ultimate goal of the network is to build a strong regional system of care that will reduce variation in services available to mothers, newborns and children by strengthening the consistency and continuity and of care across the GTA. Development of the regional network is also expected to contribute to enhancing the quality, accessibility and affordability of care.

### QUALITY

- Establishment of common protocols and standards of care
- Better communication among health providers
- Better management and improved integration of services and people
- More reliance on outcomes data, evidence-based practice and benchmarking
- Greater awareness of and responsiveness to the needs of the local population

### ACCESSIBILITY

- Treatment of low and moderate risk patients closer to home
- Patients accessing the most appropriate level of care/services
- Improvement in continuity of care

### AFFORDABILITY

- More effective and efficient use of beds
- Greater innovation and effectiveness in the use of resources
- Stronger accountability to those who fund, provide and receive services



# *Selected Resources Available through the CHN*

## **Guidelines for the Clinical Scope of Maternal and Newborn Services (March 2001)**

## **Guidelines for the Clinical Scope of Children's Services (March 2001)**

These documents outline the complexity of care to be provided at each site and detail the scope of practice by which each level of care is defined. The guidelines represent the culmination of efforts and expert advice of dozens of dedicated clinicians, researchers, administrative and professional staff throughout the GTA.

## **Transfer Guidelines for Maternal, Newborn and Retro-Transfers**

These protocols establish common guidelines for the transfer of mothers, newborns and retro-transfers to the most appropriate level of care.

## **Intermittent Narcotic Analgesia Dosing Poster**

This poster was developed to improve the safety of narcotic administration for newborns and children by providing an easily accessible reference for staff involved in medication administration.

## **Pain Management Education Tool**

A series of six educational modules to manage pain in children and ensure the application of pain management standards into every day practice. The modules are included in a document titled *"Building the Blocks towards Understanding of Pain in Neonates, Infants, Children and Youth"*.

## **Child Health Network for the Greater Toronto Area – First Annual Report to the Membership 2000-2001**

The first annual report highlighting the work and activities of the CHN and the progress on developing a strong regionalized system of care for mothers, newborns, children and youth across the GTA.

## **NETWORKnews**

A newsletter published four times a year providing information on the activities of the CHN.



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