

## For Immediate Release

January 5, 2016

### Halton Healthcare Opens New Patient Discharge Lounge at OTMH

(Oakville, ON) January 5, 2016 – Halton Healthcare kicked off the New Year on Tuesday, January 5 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of its new Patient Discharge Lounge at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH). This dedicated lounge provides discharged patients with a quiet, safe, and comfortable place to stay while they wait for their transportation home.

The Patient Discharge Lounge was dedicated in loving memory of Alberto D’Orazio. The D’Orazio family including Jim D’Orazio, his brother Rob, sister Julie as well as Mrs. Elvira D’Orazio joined Halton Healthcare officials at the opening to cut the ribbon. Jim and his family had generously donated to the general equipment fund of the new hospital to honour Alberto D’Orazio for whom the Patient Lounge had been named.

“A patient’s discharge from hospital doesn’t always align with their loved one’s or caregiver’s schedule. Consequently patients have often had to wait in their hospital room for extended periods of time until their family member or friend could pick them up,” explains Cathy Raiskums, Manager of Social Work and Patient Flow. “This can be stressful for both the patient and their family.”

The Patient Discharge Lounge has been designed with both the patient and their family in mind. It is furnished with comfortable reclining chairs, separated by privacy curtains, with adequate space for patients to keep their belongings. The lounge is conveniently located just steps from the hospital’s south entrance, which is the hospital’s designated patient pick-up and drop-off area.

“This new service also eases the burden on the patient’s loved one or caregiver,” continues Mrs. Raiskums. “When discharge times are not convenient for a prompt pick-up, the caregiver can rest assured that the discharged patient is waiting for transport in comfort.”

## Key facts

- Intended for suitable patients who are ready to go home and who don't require medical care
- Not used for patients who are at high risk of falls or who are cognitively impaired
- Staffed by one Registered Practical Nurse who is assisted by volunteers
- Open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 6 pm. Patients who are still in the lounge at closing time are assisted in moving to the Main Lobby and their families are informed

“We are very excited about introducing this innovative new service. In addition to providing patients with a more comfortable transition home, this new service will improve patient flow within the hospital,” explains Denise Hardenne, President and CEO, Halton Healthcare. “It is all a part of our strategic plan to provide exemplary patient care, always.”

## About Halton Healthcare:

Halton Healthcare is a regional healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Together these hospitals provide healthcare services to more than 325,000 residents in the communities of Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. Halton Healthcare hospitals have been recognized for their best practices in a number of patient safety and patient care initiatives. For more information, visit [www.haltonhealthcare.com](http://www.haltonhealthcare.com). Follow us on Twitter @HaltonHlthcare.



### **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:**

The D'Orazio family joined officials at Halton Healthcare for the opening of Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital's (OTMH) new Patient Discharge Lounge.

(Left to Right): Tina Triano, Oakville Hospital Foundation Chief Executive Officer; Sylvia Rodgers, Senior V.P., Clinical Programs and Chief Nursing Executive; Jim D'Orazio; Julie D'Orazio; Mrs. Elvira D'Orazio; Rob D'Orazio; Cathy Raiskums, Manager of Social Work and Patient Flow

## Media Contact:

Zita Taksas-Raponi  
Halton Healthcare

Tel: 905-845-2571, ext. 6774

[zraponi@haltonhealthcare.com](mailto:zraponi@haltonhealthcare.com)