

For Immediate Release

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The Milton Community Fund helps Halton Healthcare purchase the latest laboratory equipment for Milton District Hospital

(Milton ON) February 25, 2016 –The Milton Community Fund has generously reached out to Halton Healthcare’s Milton District Hospital (MDH) once again this year to help enhance patient care. It donated over \$36,000 toward the purchase of a state-of-the-art coagulation analyzer, a vital diagnostic laboratory instrument that can be used to detect potentially life-threatening conditions such as heart attacks or hemorrhaging. The new technology replaces an older instrument that is no longer supported by its manufacturer.

As Dr. Jennifer Walsh, Medical Director of Laboratory Services at Halton Healthcare explains, coagulation tests measure both the blood’s ability to clot and the amount of time it takes to do so. While clotting prevents excessive bleeding when you cut yourself, abnormal clotting can result in the formation of dangerous blood clots in the blood vessels which could potentially lead to heart attack, stroke or even death. Coagulation testing helps identify blood clotting abnormalities such as thrombosis which is the formation of a clot in the blood vessels, or, hemorrhage which is excessive bleeding.

Notes:

- Approximately 18,000 coagulation tests are performed at MDH annually.
- Coagulation testing is currently performed 24 hours per day at MDH and the demand is increasing for this vital diagnostic test.
- At MDH, coagulation testing is
 - performed for both emergency and admitted patients
 - used to diagnose chronic conditions such as atrial fibrillation
 - used pre-operatively to support surgery in all specialties.
- The MDH Laboratory submitted an application to the Milton Community Fund for an *STA Compact Hemostasis System with Cap piercing*, the summer of 2015.
 - The application was approved in November 2015
 - The new coagulation technology was acquired December 2015 and has been in use at MDH since February, 2016.
 - The new equipment’s design (cap piercing) makes it safer for staff to use.

Quotes

“Laboratory medicine supports all aspects of patient care at Halton Healthcare. The testing and analysis performed by our Laboratory team behind-the-scenes forms the basis for over 80 per cent of medical decisions. The new coagulation analyzer was urgently needed to support our current operations. Special thanks to the Milton Community Fund for their support in helping us acquire this new technology. This new system will allow us to meet the increasing demand for this diagnostic test. It will also enable standardization of our services across the three Halton Healthcare hospitals, which is an important patient safety and quality initiative.”

Dr. Jennifer Walsh, Medical Director of Laboratory Services at Halton Healthcare

“We are very grateful for the funding provided by the Milton Community Fund this year to MDH’s Laboratory Services. It allows our hospital to meet the growing needs of our constantly expanding population in a more timely and effective manner with the most up-to-date technology and highest safety standard possible.”

Janet Skupsky, Chief Operating Officer, Milton District Hospital

About Halton Healthcare:

Halton Healthcare is a 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. Follow us on Twitter @HaltonHlthcare.

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Pictured: Anita Arnold, MDH Senior Hematology Technologist demonstrates the new coagulation analyzer in the MDH Laboratory.