

**For immediate release**

December 19, 2017

**Halton Healthcare delivers “35 beds in 35 days” to improve Regional Capacity Pressures**

Halton Healthcare has taken on a lead role in strengthening regional acute care hospital capacity within the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (MH LHIN) region by establishing a 35-bed Regional Unit at Milton District Hospital (MDH).

The Regional Unit at MDH will care for Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients from hospitals as identified by the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), who no longer need acute care hospital services, but are unable to live independently. ALC patients are most often waiting for placement in a long-term care facility.

“Capacity issues remain a challenge for hospitals across the province. Halton Healthcare is pleased to work collaboratively with our partners in the Mississauga Halton LHIN to improve access to patient care in our region,” said Denise Hardenne, President & CEO, Halton Healthcare. “We were very fortunate to have space available that we could convert into a unit for these patients as they transition out of hospital. In just 35 days our team has recommissioned a closed unit, purchased the required furniture and equipment and successfully recruited a healthcare team designed to meet the needs of the ALC patient. In addition to nursing and medical staff, this team includes physio and occupational therapy as well as some recreational therapy services more closely reflective of the care provided in a long-term care setting.”

The Regional Unit at MDH has been established in the former Medical/Surgical Inpatient Unit which became vacant on October 1, 2017, when patients were moved into the hospital’s new expansion. Halton Healthcare identified this space as an opportunity to address system-wide capacity challenges. The Regional Unit was opened and prepared to receive ALC patients on December 18, 2017.

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**Regional Capacity**

“Strong partnerships with our health service providers – and between providers – facilitate innovative, collaborative solutions that build capacity in our health care system, so patients can access care that reflects their needs. Through this temporary regional unit, Halton Healthcare has quickly mobilized resources that will free-up crucial acute care beds, enabling patients to receive care in the most appropriate setting,” said Bill MacLeod, CEO, Mississauga Halton LHIN.

Funding for the 35-bed Regional Unit is part of the Government of Ontario’s commitment to making more hospital beds available across the province in order to reduce wait times and improve access to health care services across the health system’s entire continuum of care.

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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 350,000 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 and Facebook.

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