



News Release

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Bluewater Health Issues Quality Improvement Plan

SARNIA & PETROLIA – March 29, 2019 – Bluewater Health’s Board of Directors has endorsed the organization’s 2019-2020 Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). *The Excellent Care for All Act* (ECFAA) requires hospitals to annually develop a formal, documented set of quality commitments to its patients, clients, staff and community to improve quality through focused targets and actions. The QIP exemplifies the hospitals’ commitment to providing high quality, safe patient care.

Developed in collaboration with medical and clinical leaders Bluewater Health’s 2019/2020 QIP contains five key objectives each with measures and targets designed to provide a clear direction for organizational priorities. Bluewater Health Patient Experience Partners (PEPs) provided input, specifically identifying the indicators they felt were important for improving the patient experience at Bluewater Health.

Bluewater Health’s QIP objectives are to

- Improve **the information and support patients receive prior to being discharged** by developing a standardized discharge process and strategy.
- Decrease **the readmission rates for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)** by increasing collaboration between Bluewater Health and community partners and stakeholders.
- Decrease **hospital readmission rates for patients with mental illness or an addiction** by improving collaborative treatment planning and handover with community partners.
- Decrease **time to inpatient bed, improving access for patients** by improved bed management and collaborative planning.
- Foster **an environment of reporting for workplace violence incidents** by increasing awareness of workplace violence and building a culture of incident reporting.

According to Chief Nursing Executive Shannon Landry the QIP focuses the organization on indicators and targets that are identified by the Board of Directors as priority areas of quality, and augments accountability and transparency with the community.

“The goal of the annual Quality Improvement Plan is to make hospitals safer and more effective, sustainable, accessible and patient-centered,” she said. “Our 2019-20 QIP builds on the successes and lessons learned from past years, and is evidence of our commitment to providing high quality, safe patient care.”

Mike Lapaine, President and CEO adds, “Our annual QIP stretches us to reach for even higher performance goals, which requires the dedicated attention of the entire organization, and indeed the Sarnia-Lambton community, to make meaningful improvements.”

To view Bluewater Health’s Quality Improvement Plan, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca (click on Performance/Quality Improvement Plan). The hospital’s Board of Directors is responsible for monitoring the targets, and hospital leaders are accountable for reaching the targets and annually reporting to the public on performance and improvement plans. The plan is also provided annually to Health Quality Ontario.

The hospital’s Quality & Patient Safety Plan is also accessible at www.bluewaterhealth.ca. The plan illustrates all the processes in place at Bluewater Health to enhance patient safety and quality care.

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health’s Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.* For more information about Bluewater Health, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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