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ext. 293



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The New Year Brings a New Service to ADMH

Keeping care close to home is important as it best serves patients and the community as a whole. We are pleased to announce a new service at ADMH especially targeted at diabetic patients. In partnership with the Ottawa Hospital's Endocrinology Program, ADMH will now be able to provide specialist endocrinology consultation services. This will be through videoconferencing in the outpatient clinic area for patients referred by physicians or nurse practitioners from the Champlain LHIN. Emphasis will be placed on new referrals for diabetic patients but appointments will also be available for new and follow-up consultation for patients with other endocrine disorders. Dr. Phyllis Hierlihy will be the consulting physician for ADMH.

The Endocrinology Telemedicine Program is just one of many telemedicine programs offered at ADMH to the residents of our growing and aging community. The other programs are (tele dermatology, telepsychiatry and teleParkinson). All these programs permit patients to be treated in the community avoiding travel and the costs associated with it. The Endocrinology telemedicine program has an anticipated start date of January 21.

Diabetes is on the rise across Canada and in our catchment area. The community of Arnprior has in comparison to the provincial average high readmission rates for patients with diabetes. We are hopeful this telemedicine clinic will help reduce diabetic readmission rates and help patients affected to better manage and prevent future complications. Statistics Canada recently listed diabetes as the sixth-leading cause of death in the country, killing 7,394 people in 2007. It is also "contributing factor" in about 41,500 deaths each year as it leads to many other ailments, including heart disease and stroke. Further data from the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) show that 80 per cent of people with diabetes will die of a heart attack or stroke. Michael Cloutier, president of the CDA says that "80 per cent of the health-care costs associated with diabetes are for downstream complications. That would be heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, blindness, and amputations, just to name a few critical elements."

Patients are encouraged to speak with their family doctor about this program. All pre-clinic work up will be set up by your health care professional and Dr Hierlihy will review your patient chart prior to the appointment. Through videoconference, where both patient and doctor will see each other over a screen, they will proceed with the appointment. These telemedicine clinics will occur on Friday mornings at ADMH and a nurse will be with the patient for the duration of these appointments. A referral from your health care professional is required for this clinic. If you have questions please contact Cheryl Dalbec, Telemedicine Coordinator ADMH at 613-623-7962 x297 or via email urotherapy@arnpriorhospital.com