



117 Banting Drive
Deep River ON, K0J 1P0

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact

Larry Schruder
CEO
613-584-1266 ext. 165

H1N1 Concerns Drive Hospital Emerg Volumes to New Highs

Deep River, ON, November 2, 2009- Deep River Hospital Emergency Department visits hit a new record high last week with many people seeking assistance for flu-like symptoms.

“On some of our busiest days, we have seen as many as 70 patients for medical concerns, but one day last week we hit 110 patients” said Hospital CEO Larry Schruder. “In order to better cope with the volumes, and to reduce the potential risk to patients and family associated with sitting for long periods in a crowded waiting area full of sick people, the Hospital has put additional processes in place to provide faster and safer service for all who use our facilities.”

All patients seeking assistance for flu-like symptoms are seen in a separate area and are quickly assessed by nursing staff for severity of symptoms and presence of high risk factors. Using a documented set of medical criteria established by the local physicians, patients with low acuity symptoms and those who aren't of the higher risk group are provided with appropriate medical information and guidance of how to manage and monitor their symptoms and are then encouraged to return home for their own safety. The patients deemed to be of higher risk are encouraged to wait until they can be seen by an attending physician.

“These temporary process changes will remain in place until our patient volumes and our presenting problems return to normal,” said Lianne Wheeler, Chief Nursing Officer.

“This is an important patient safety initiative as it reduces the number of people who may have to spend hours waiting to see a doctor that they really don't need to see – and these days, a Hospital waiting room can present an increased health risk to patients who have non-emergency ailments, especially with young healthy children in tow. It is a change necessary to provide the safest level of care to all presenting patients in these challenging times”.

For more information on preventing and managing the flu please visit www.fightflu.ca.