



NIAGARA HEALTH SYSTEM
SYSTÈME DE SANTÉ DE NIAGARA
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WEST LINCOLN
MEMORIAL
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Creation of a Regional Microbiology Service

We are pleased to share the work that has been done to create a Regional Microbiology Service across our Network over the past 9 months. Creating a regional service includes **coordinated leadership, testing changes and transformational technology.**

Coordinated Leadership

The LHIN Laboratory Council recently approved the Terms of Reference for a Regional Microbiology Committee. The purpose of this team is to provide clinical and operational oversight, leadership and direction into the development and management of the Regional Microbiology Service created by the partners in the Laboratory Medicine Network. This team will have representatives from all organizations and will be accountable to plan and build the regional service as well as provide guidance to optimize the quality, service levels and academic requirements of the Regional Microbiology Service to best serve the health of our community.

Testing Changes

Recently a decision was made to transfer microbiology services from the Joseph Brant Hospital to the Hamilton General Hospital. The Microbiology staff from Joseph Brant Hospital will be offered the opportunity to transfer to Microbiology at the Hamilton General Hospital. In addition, Niagara Health Systems microbiology and reference work is being redirected from LifeLabs to the Regional Microbiology Service. The leadership at all organizations is confident that this consolidation of microbiology services will maintain and improve the quality of patient care, reduce turn around time and improve access to technology.

Transformational Technology

As part of the regional service, a decision has been made for a full microbiology automation solution. The vendor of choice is Alere for the Copan WASPLab systems and this equipment will be installed in the microbiology lab at the Hamilton General Hospital.

The anticipated timelines for transfers and automation is the fall of 2013 and you will hear more about the direct impact on your site via each individual organization. As technology continues to evolve in microbiology, we will assess the suitability of new systems as they become available, e.g. molecular testing for other sites across our network. This is a great example of how through pooling our resources and expertise, we are able to create something positive for all of our patients that none of us could afford to achieve working alone and furthers our goal of building a fully integrated, leading practice, best in quality, regional laboratory system.

.....David Langstaff, Executive Director, AskDavid@hhsc.ca