

# North West Report

Providing a summary of telemedicine activity in the North West LHIN for April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009

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## What's New at OTN

### **OTN welcomes new Board Chair**

Mr. Ray Marshall, CEO of Brockville General Hospital, was appointed Chair of the OTN Board of Directors in July, 2009. A long-time advocate and champion for telemedicine, Mr. Marshall had been a Vice Chair on the Board since its inception in 2006 and also served as Chair of the Audit Committee. Mr. Marshall replaces inaugural Board Chair Dr. Robert Filler, who provided outstanding leadership for the organization and ensured the integrity and effectiveness of the Board in fulfilling its governance role. The staff and Board of OTN would like to express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Filler and a warm welcome to Mr. Marshall.

### **Telehomecare delivers significant results**

In March of 2007, OTN launched a telehomecare pilot program funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Canada Health Infoway. Eight Family Health Teams enrolled 813 patients with either congestive heart failure or chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, making it the largest telehomecare program in Canada.

The goal of the program was to enable patient self management through technology that enhances quality of life and reduces the impact of chronic disease on the health system.



Patients were enrolled for four months and received a remote monitoring unit which enabled them to transmit their vital signs and their electronic responses to a series of questions over a phone line from their home. A Telehomecare nurse monitored those vital signs and regularly contacted the patients by phone or video to determine appropriate follow-up or education. Evaluation of the pilot by PriceWaterhouseCoopers through survey tools showed a reduction of: 95% in the average number of walk-in clinic visits; 72% the average number of ER visits; and 65% in the average number of hospital admissions.

For health care providers, Telehomecare is a catalyst for better patient care, for team-based collaboration and for the implementation of best practices. For patients, telehomecare instills confidence and security in managing their care and play a role in changing behaviours. Telehomecare has the potential to transform the delivery of health care, taking the concept of bringing health care closer to home by bringing it into the home.

### **Using TM to deliver mental health services**

Better care and support for those living with mental health issues is on the political agenda, with both a Minister's Advisory Group on Mental Health and Addictions and an all-party Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions contributing to the development of a long-term Mental Health and Addictions strategy for Ontario. OTN presented to the Select Committee during hearings in Kingston in June and participated in Minister Caplan's Mental Health summit "Open Minds. Healthy Minds" in July.

## Around the LHINs

### **Expanding education and networking opportunities for ABI patients, families and friends**

Information is crucial for helping brain injury survivors, their families, friends and caregivers cope with brain injuries. To keep them informed on strategies to manage life after a brain injury, the acquired brain injury (ABI) program at St. Joseph's Health Care, London developed an eight-week "Survivor and Family Education Series" which is broadcast by videoconference to local hospitals and Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) across 10 counties in the Southwest, thereby decreasing the need to travel to London.



Above: Brain injury survivor Amy Roth (centre) is a speaker in the videoconference series and now volunteers at Parkwood Hospital.

The series, which features both subject experts and survivor speakers, explores one relevant topic each week, from "Brain Injury 101" to coping financially. These sessions encourage peer support and give participants an opportunity to meet other individuals and family members affected by brain injury.

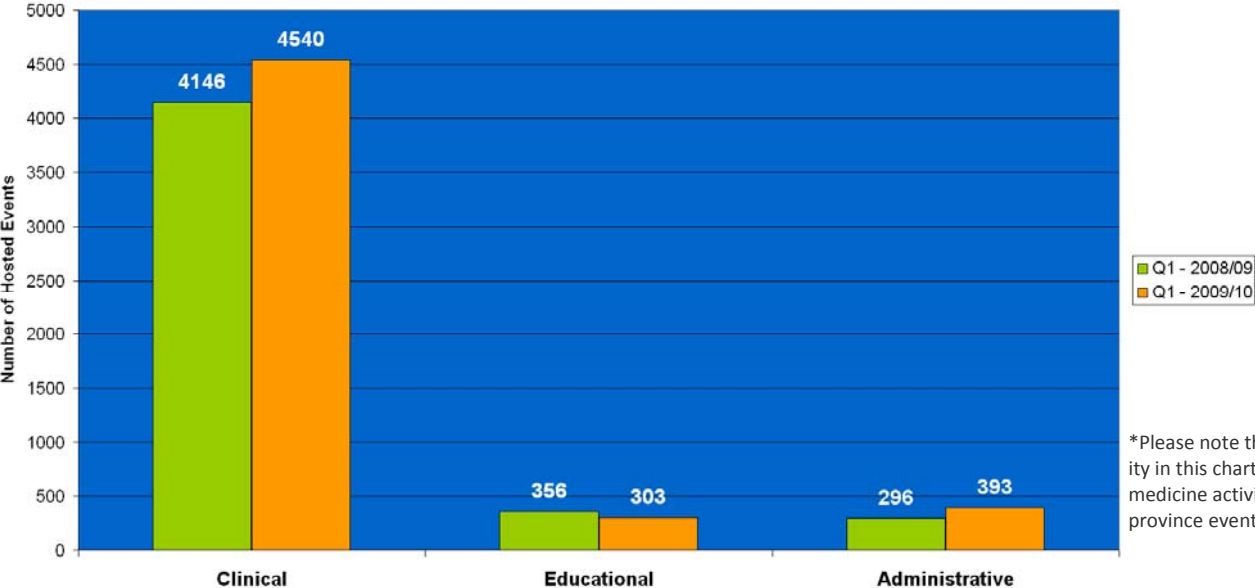
### **Regional Cancer Program expands supportive care through videoconferencing**

The Regional Cancer Program (RCP) of the Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) already uses telemedicine to support Radiation and Medical Oncology patient consultations and assessments. However, by incorporating telemedicine in its Supportive Care Program, it is eliminating the need for cancer patients, survivors and their families to travel to receive a high degree of specialized psychological, social and emotional support that may not be available in smaller communities

### **University Health Network hits 1000 telehealth lung transplant consultation**

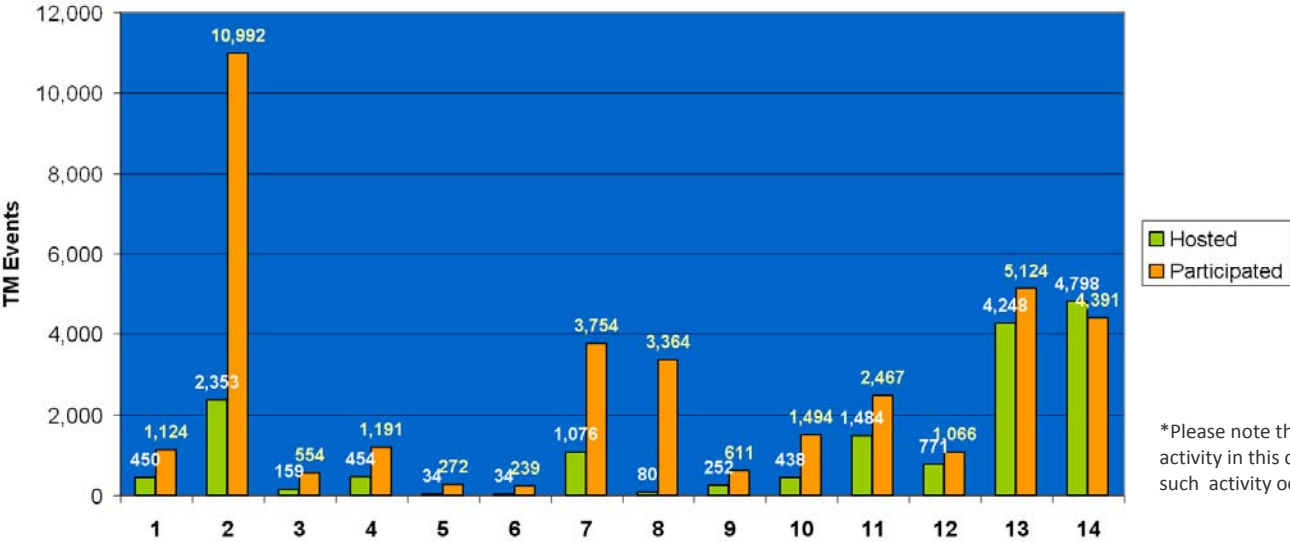
University Health Network's Multi-Organ Transplant Program performs approximately 400 transplants annually and provides follow-up care to almost 5000 transplant recipients. Last month, its telehealth lung transplant program reached a significant milestone – its 1000th consultation! The consultation featured a patient at Kingston General Hospital who had received a lung transplant at UHN in 2007, who met her with her Toronto physicians for a routine 30-minute consultation.

Telemedicine Events by Type: Q1 08/09 vs Q1 09/10



\*Please note that the total hosted activity in this chart reflects all hosted telemedicine activity, including out-of-province events, webcasts, etcetera.

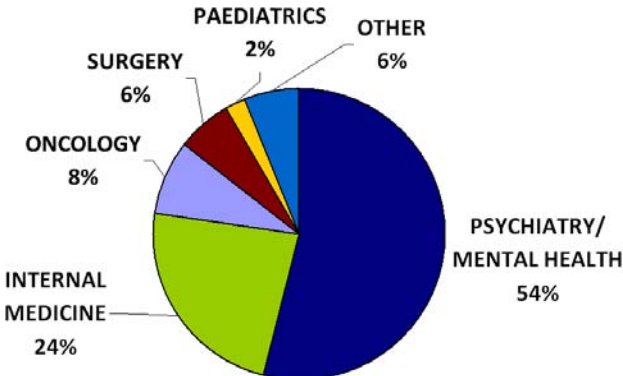
Telemedicine Events by LHIN Q1 - 2009/10



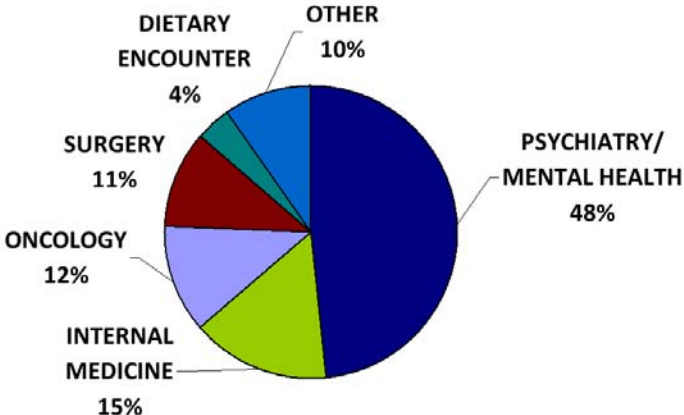
\*Please note that the total hosted activity in this chart is specific only to such activity occurring within a LHIN.

A telemedicine event has two parts: "the host", which refers to the site that initiates the event and "the participant", which refers to the site(s) joining the event. For clinical events, the patient site is considered the host, while the consultant site is the participant. Activity reported for a particular LHIN refers to only the side of the event occurring within that LHIN.

Top Therapeutic Areas of Care: Ontario (Q1 - 09/10)



Top Therapeutic Areas of Care: LHIN 14 (Q1 - 09/10)



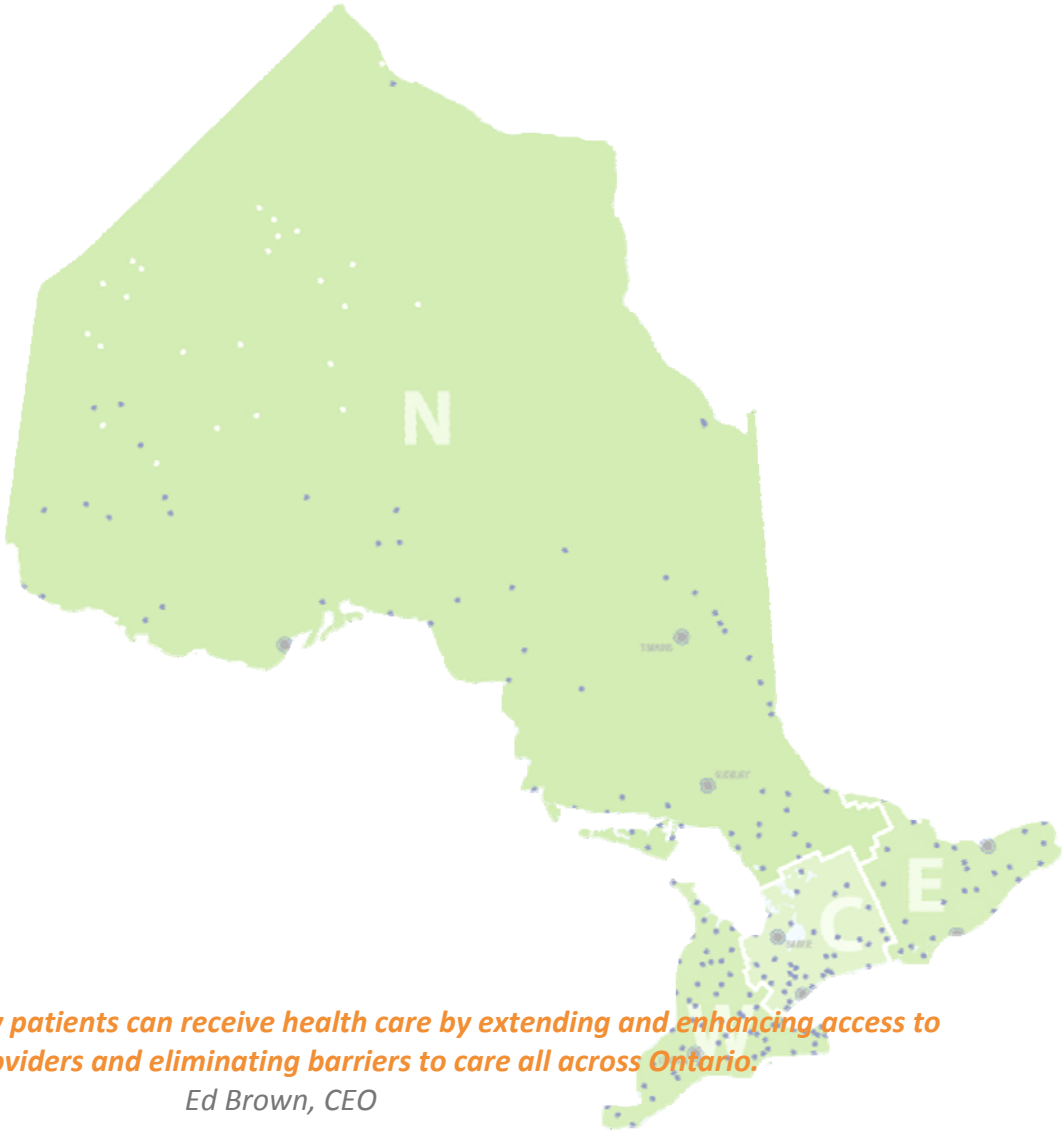
## OTN Member Summary - North West LHIN

Atikokan	Atikokan Family Health Team
<b>Atikokan</b>	Atikokan General Hospital
<b>Dryden</b>	Community Living Dryden
<b>Dryden</b>	Dryden Area Family Health Team
<b>Dryden</b>	Dryden Regional Health Centre
<b>Ear Falls</b>	Ear Falls Community Health Centre
<b>Fort Frances</b>	Riverside Health Care Facilities
<b>Geraldton</b>	Geraldton District Hospital
<b>Geraldton</b>	Greenstone Family Health Team
<b>Ignace</b>	Mary Berglund Community Health Centre
<b>Kenora</b>	Canadian Mental Health Association-Kenora
<b>Kenora</b>	Lake of the Woods District Hospital
<b>Kenora</b>	Northwestern Health Unit
<b>Kenora</b>	Sunset Country Family Health Team
<b>Manitouwadge</b>	Manitouwadge General Hospital
<b>Marathon</b>	Marathon Family Health Team
<b>Marathon</b>	Wilson Memorial General Hospital
<b>Nipigon</b>	Nipigon District Memorial Hospital
<b>Red Lake</b>	Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital
<b>Sioux Lookout</b>	Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre
<b>Terrace Bay</b>	McCausland Hospital
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	AIDS Thunder Bay
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Bruni, Teresa
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Canadian Mental Health Association-Thunder Bay
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Gamble, David Gregory
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	George Jeffrey Children's Centre
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	M.J. Mosley Respiratory Therapy Professional Corp.
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	North West CCAC
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	North West Local Health Integration Network
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network

*OTN is transforming the way patients can receive health care by extending and enhancing access to health care providers and eliminating barriers to care all across Ontario.*

*Ed Brown, CEO*

<b>Thunder Bay</b>	NorWest Community Health Centre
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Port Arthur Health Centre Inc. (The)
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	St. Joseph's Care Group
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Thunder Bay District Health Unit
<b>Thunder Bay</b>	Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
<b>Timmins</b>	Timmins Family Health Team
<b>Vermilion Bay</b>	Machin Family Health Team



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