

Hospital care provided in privacy of home

By LISA RUTLEDGE
the Herald

Over the next two years Halton will be receiving \$2 million for a pilot project which will make hospital care available in the privacy of the home.

Halton will be one of six areas to receive grants from the premier's Health Innovation Fund to implement a two-year Hospitals In The Home project, Ontario Health Minister Elinor Caplan announced at Peel Memorial Hospital Thursday. The Ministry of Health has committed \$10 million for the home care project — the first of its kind in Ontario.

Under the new project, doctors and nurses will provide a variety of services including shift nursing care, guaranteed doctor house calls and 24-hour patient care by health care teams, said Mrs. Caplan.

Since "patients will have access to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetic and homemaking services and 24-hour emergency

health care" the demand for beds will decrease in sponsoring hospitals, Mrs. Caplan explained.

Since Hospitals In The Home is a voluntary project, qualifying patients will have the option to stay in hospital, said Mrs. Caplan. She added those who are required to stay in hospital will be able to return home sooner with the home-care project.

The health minister said she is confident the home-care project will demonstrate there are viable alternatives to hospital-based care and insists the project will not jeopardize present hospital services. Mrs. Caplan added the projects may minimize health care spending and still provide quality care in the privacy of the home.

Brian Brady, Milton District and Memorial Hospital Executive Director, said Halton regional hospitals are pleased the minister approved the region's proposal submitted last February.

Mr. Brady said the success of whether or not the home-care pilot project reduces hospital bed shortages remains to be seen but did say it is anticipated 15 to 25 beds will be opened up.

According to Mr. Brady, the Hospitals In The Home project will not be used primarily to reduce the demand for beds but as a cost avoidance technique. He explained the home-care project will be used to allow patients to return home earlier and receive acute care following surgery, in the home.

Assistant Executive Director of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, Randy Esford, said the mechanics of the projects have not yet been finalized. He said Hospitals In The Home will be a long-term cost-avoidance project.

The new home care project will be a positive venture because it will allow patients to return home to their families earlier.



Health Minister Elinor Caplan announced that Halton will be receiving \$2 million to implement a Hospitals In The Home project which brings health care into the privacy of the home. Georgetown and

District Memorial Hospital will be participating in the home-care pilot project. The provincial minister held a press conference at Peel Memorial Hospital last Thursday. (Herald photo)



Graduate

Joan and Bill Cox, RR2, Georgetown, are very proud to announce the graduation of their daughter Colleen on June 22, 1990, from Humber College of Arts and Applied Technology in the Funeral Service Education Program. Colleen met with the requirements of the Licensing Committee of the Board of Funeral Services and has obtained her Ontario Funeral Director's License. She is presently employed with Skinner and Middlebrook, Port Credit.

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