

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Health care and record confidentiality focus of session

Contact:

John Hart
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-0710, Ext. 3070

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Dr. Kevin Leonard
School of Business and Economics
(519) 884-0710, Ext. 2489
Res: (416) 967-3749

District Health Council
(519) 884-6390, Ext. 226

WATERLOO, Ontario - Health care is moving to the top of the public agenda.

Recent cutbacks in funding, the closure of hospitals, and the withdraw of doctors' services have added to the concern that provincial health care is facing a crisis. The reality of doing more with less is facing all users of the health care system.

Community Health Information Networks, (CHIN), an electronic method of bringing together various elements of health care to provide seamless service, is one of the possible solutions. But will a CHIN for the Kitchener-Waterloo region meet the concerns of health record confidentiality? This and other health care issues will be explored at an information session scheduled for **Wednesday, November 20, 1996, 7:30 p.m., room N1001 (Science Building)** at Wilfrid Laurier University.

"Patient records will be digitized, and theoretically, anyone will have access to these health records," Kevin Leonard, Associate Professor of Business and conference organizer said. "As health care consumers, we have to examine the whole issue of ensuring confidentiality."

The session will also address general health care concerns to ensure that patients have the opportunity to assist hospitals, doctors and the Ministry in setting policy and putting plans into action.