Hamilton Health Sciences installs advanced computer security

Threats to computer systems have increased dramatically over the past few years and Hamilton Health Sciences is responding by proactively installing what will be one of the most advanced computer network security architectures in Canada.

“Effective security requires a layered approach and that is why we are adding multiple layers of security to our existing security platform,” said Kim Dell, Manager of Infrastructure in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). “Compare it to a home owner who has decided that a lock on the front door isn’t enough, and decides to add additional security features such as a door chain, a deadbolt, an alarm system, and perhaps even a vicious dog. The difference is, our extra features are delivered via hardware and software platforms not gadgets and animals. Each added layer makes our computers and the information they contain safer from hackers and viruses.”

After the security software is deployed in January, HHS computer users may experience a brief (one- or two-second) additional delay when logging on. That is a result of the system checking the user’s ‘security posture’. For most people, that will be the only impact.

Some users (a small minority) may be denied access to the network when they try to log on. Possible reasons could be that they’re using a non-HHS computer with outdated antivirus software, or they’re running applications that our ICT Department doesn’t know about or doesn’t support. Those users will be directed to a virtual ‘remediation area’ where these exposures will be remediated if possible. If the exposures are fixed, the user will be put back on the network – if not they’ll have to call the Helpdesk for assistance.

If you encounter difficulties with your application functionality in January 2008, please contact the Helpdesk to begin the investigative process.

For more information on this project, go to the ICT HHS Intranet web site under current projects.

Wheeling on – The Regional Rehabilitation Facility being built at Hamilton General Hospital will feature an outdoor wheeling track for patients to practice on all different types of terrain, in all weather conditions.

The building will include many special features, tailored to meet the very unique needs of all rehabilitation patients. These include indoor and outdoor exercise and practice facilities, a therapeutic pool, therapy gardens, a full range of specialized consultative resources, and transitional apartments to practice daily living skills.

The physical environment will be fully accessible to wheelchair users. Features include, wide doorways, large washrooms, distance markers on the walls, and patient rooms that are large enough for patients to keep their wheelchairs at their bedside. An impressive outdoor wheeling track will enable patients to transition back into the community by practicing on all different types of terrain in all weather conditions.

A bridge will connect the facility to Hamilton General Hospital, allowing staff and patients to move about more easily and efficiently with direct access to diagnostic imaging and other clinical services.

This purpose-built, state-of-the-art structure represents the fulfillment of a dream for our rehabilitation program. More importantly it symbolizes hope for the many patients who will benefit from the healing environment it will provide.

“Our patients, their families, and all of our rehabilitation staff have dreamed about this building for many years and we’re thrilled it’s becoming a reality,” said Christine Anderson, Director, Rehabilitation and Seniors Health Program. “We’re incredibly excited to see our dreams come true.”

Construction begins on the new Regional Rehabilitation Facility

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Hamilton Health Sciences’ Highlights of 2007

Top 100 Employer

For the second year in a row, Hamilton Health Sciences was named one of Canada’s Top 100 Employers. Organizations from across the country are nominated for this special honour every year. It recognizes employers who have created policies, programs and environments that support and enhance the work experience of their employees.

Human Touch Awards

Two Juravinski Cancer Program teams were presented with Human Touch Awards from Cancer Care Ontario. These awards recognize and honour health care professionals and providers in the cancer system who demonstrate exceptional and compassionate patient care. Congratulations to the JCC’s Breast Disease Site Team and MUMC’s Blood Disorders Unit, which were both recognized for their innovative and compassionate approach to providing care.

Redevelopment

Following a $10 million donation from local businessman David Braley, construction of the David Braley Cardiac, Vascular and Stroke Research Institute began this year. This 165,000 square foot, six-storey facility will house two extraordinary programs - the Population Health Research Institute and the Fraser Mustard Thrombosis Research Institute.

Redevelopment at MUMC/MCH took off this year with the expansion of the Pediatric Critical Care Unit and the laying of new flooring on the second level of the building. Over the next two years, nearly 20 per cent of the existing site at MUMC or approximately 125,000 net square feet will be redeveloped into a state-of-the-art facility.

The ambitious $255 million redevelopment of Henderson General Hospital officially kicked off with the demolition of 70 Wing South in July. Over the next four years, 75 per cent of the Henderson will be reconstructed, resulting in the expansion of inpatient and outpatient services to support the Juravinski Cancer Centre, the Arthritis Program, and general medical and surgical services.

Heliport Relocation

In August, the helicopter landing pad at the General was relocated from ground level to the rooftop. The relocation to the roof of the north tower drastically reduces precious minutes and increases patient safety by enabling a medical team to immediately transfer patients from the rooftop to a designated elevator and directly to the ICU or Emergency Department.

Foundations join forces

The Hamilton Health Sciences and Juravinski Cancer Centre Foundations joined forces this year. As a result, foundation staff members were consolidated and three fundraising councils were created to support Cancer, Children, and Heart, Stroke & Vascular. These councils now report to a single Foundation Board that oversees fundraising for all Hamilton Health Sciences programs.

The Hamilton Bulldog teamed up with the Juravinski Cancer Centre on Sunday, October 21 for the inaugural “Pink in the Rink,” a fun family event in support of a new Breast Assessment Centre in Hamilton.

Kathy Cadeau, a former patient of the Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC) and breast cancer survivor, her two sons, and Dr. Bill Evans, President of the Juravinski Cancer Centre, dropped the puck to kick off the game between the Hamilton Bulldogs and the Manitoba Moose.

The “Pink in the Rink” event was part of a $5 million campaign by the Juravinski Cancer Centre Foundation to help make the Breast Assessment Centre a reality - a facility that would certainly have benefitted Kathy, who experienced many challenges before being properly diagnosed.

For Kathy, her problems initially began at the age of 32, while breastfeeding her son. After consulting a physician, she was diagnosed with having mastitis, an inflammation or infection of the breast ducts, a condition that is common in lactating women. However, even after she finished breastfeeding, Kathy’s problems persisted. In trying to get her condition diagnosed, Kathy was bounced back and forth between doctors’ offices and X-ray centres. Because of her age, it was thought she was too young to have breast cancer.

After two years of uncertainty, Kathy was finally diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 34. In order to beat the cancer, she had to undergo treatment which included a double mastectomy, drug treatment and radiation.

“I am so happy that the Juravinski Cancer Centre is developing a Breast Assessment Centre. If other women can catch their cancer early, they might not have to go through what I went through,” said Kathy.

For more information or to make a donation to the Breast Assessment Centre please contact Jill Anderson at 905-521-2100 ext. 47003 or at andersoj@hhsc.ca.

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Currently, when these women require breast assessment, they often have to wait days, weeks or even months for referrals, appointments and tests. Naturally, along with the waiting, comes the anxiety, stress and fear that they might have breast cancer.

With the Juravinski Cancer Centre’s new Breast Assessment Centre, there will be access to experts in surgery, radiology and pathology committed to ensuring that all women receive quick access and diagnostic assessment.

“Patients like Kathy need and deserve rapid access to a facility that can quickly diagnose a breast abnormality and determine whether it is cancer or not,” said Dr. Evans. “The Juravinski Cancer Centre’s new Breast Assessment Centre will make prompt diagnosis possible and give women the best chance for a good outcome. The support of everyone who attended this special game will go a long way in making a difference in the lives of many women and their families.”

The “Pink in the Rink” event was a great success in raising money for the BAC. Established in August 2007, the Bulldogs Foundation was formed with the objective of strengthening and broadening the basis of support for non-profit organizations in the community. “Pink in the Rink” is one of the first programs in the community to receive support from the new foundation.

Pearl Ventena, President and CEO of Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation, praised the efforts of the Hamilton Buldog Foundation for its part in the “Pink in the Rink” campaign. “The Juravinski Cancer Centre Foundation would like to thank the Hamilton Bulldogs for their support. Partnering with them on this wonderful event helps to promote breast cancer awareness and the need for a Breast Assessment Centre to the greater community. We look forward to future successful collaborations with the Bulldogs Foundation.”
Oncology ward executes best practices

Taking initiative – From left: Doreen Levett, RN, Susan Denis, RN, Bunny Ruiz, Clinical Manager, ES Oncology, Diane Clement, RN, and Caroline Elliott, RN, Education and Development Clinician (absent Lisa Harrison, RN).

After being designated a Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) in 2006, Hamilton Health Sciences implemented the Best Practice Guideline for the assessment and prevention of pressure ulcers throughout 15 medical, surgical and rehabilitation units across four sites. Although the Oncology Ward at the Henderson was not one of the units designated to apply this guideline, Manager, Bunny Ruiz, and nurses Diane Clement, Susan Denis, Lisa Harrison and Doreen Levett implemented the guideline into the unit with the support of Caroline Elliott, Education & Development Clinician.

“By taking the initiative to implement a best practice guideline on their unit, this group of staff is providing excellence in care delivery by identifying patients who are at risk and providing early interventions to protect and promote skin integrity,” said Beverley Morgan, Project Coordinator, RNAO Best Practice Guidelines.

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Don’t fall for it! Hamilton Health Sciences’ launches falls prevention strategy

Every year, one in three Canadian seniors will fall at least once. Falls can result in disability, chronic pain, loss of independence, lowered quality of life and/or death. In fact, falls are the leading cause of accidental death among older people. The Public Health Agency of Canada says falls are one of the most complex and costly injury issues facing seniors.

As a 2007-2008 corporate initiative, Hamilton Health Sciences is working to reduce the number of patient falls and fall-related injuries by implementing best practices. This year, a working group of clinical experts has developed a fall prevention strategy to provide all clinical staff at Hamilton Health Sciences with inservice and e-learning education, detailed policies and procedures, and practical bedside resources to prevent falls. These resources will equip staff with knowledge and skills to identify patients at risk as well as evidence-based interventions to prevent patient falls and fall injuries. Fall prevention educational information for patients and families has also been developed. In addition, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Guideline: Prevention of Falls and Fall Injuries in the Older Adult will be implemented in all medical, surgical and rehabilitation units across four sites.

To kick off the Falls Prevention Strategy in January 2008, the Falls Prevention Working Group and the Education & Development Committee of the Nursing Advisory Council will launch the Best Practice for Prevention of Falls strategy, titled “Don’t Fall For It!” On January 7, a two-hour event will feature a presentation by Dr. Alexandra Papaioannou, Director of Hamilton Health Sciences’ Geriatric and Complex Medicine Rehabilitation Unit, and an internationally-recognized expert in elder care.

The event will feature “Don’t Fall for it!” room set up with hazards so staff can test their knowledge of environmental risk factors for falls. There will also be Stryker Canada demonstrations of the exit alarms on the new beds, refreshments, and door prizes. All staff is welcome to attend. The event will be held concurrently at the General, MUMC and Henderson sites with teleconferencing of Dr. Papaioannou’s presentation from the General.

For more information, visit the events section of the Education HHS Intranet web site.
Behind-the-scenes tour gives donors an opportunity to take “A Closer Look”

On November 13, Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation hosted “A Closer Look” tours where donors and board members had a rare opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into a day in the life of Hamilton General Hospital. The General opened up its busiest and most critical departments, including the Emergency Department, the Operating Room, Diagnostic Imaging and Cardiac Care, to special guests for the most exclusive tour ever offered at Hamilton Health Sciences.

More than 50 participants turned out for the evening tours to experience the incredible care and innovation happening throughout the Hamilton General site. Directors, physicians, and managers led each group on a walking tour through their chosen area where they heard presentations and witnessed first-hand the amazing work done behind-the-scenes.

The group touring the Emergency Department experienced the adrenaline and intensity of emergency care and witnessed what real-life action would be like when the trauma team, led by Dr. Niv Sner, simulated an incoming trauma.

“I was most impressed with how the doctors, nurses and paramedics worked together so efficiently as a team and also the level of care that was shown to the patient during a time of crisis,” said Robert Harrison, a guest on the ED tour. “The teams fit together like a hand and glove. It gives me peace of mind knowing if I am ever in a crisis I will be cared for by top-notch professionals.”

Guests who chose the Operating Room tour dressed in surgery greens and ventured into an OR to experience the innovative and exciting new technologies being used in surgery. Members of the surgical team, including Drs. Paula Klurfan and Thorstein Gunnarsson, were on hand to discuss the latest procedures of the brain and spine, and spoke about the future of surgery.

The Cardiac Care tour group participated in interactive displays with pacemakers and catheters, looked at x-rays, and checked out the equipment in the Electrophysiology Lab. Dr. Carlos Morillo discussed pacemakers and defibrillators in more detail, and past patients were on-hand to speak about their personal experiences.

Guests of the Diagnostic Imaging tour took a closer look at bones, muscles, tissues and organs in multiple dimensions through live demonstrations with the MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and CT (Computed Tomography) scanners. Drs. Arlene Franchetto and Jonathan Grynspan explained how the tools work, focusing on their impact on cardiac and stroke cases.

“Our donors appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to meet the professional staff, hearing from them first-hand about the remarkable work they do and engaging in one-on-one conversations,” said Pearl Veenema, President & CEO, Hamilton Health Sciences. “A Closer Look was a wonderful merging of our donor family with our hospital family, and we look forward to making these sorts of opportunities possible more often. I know everyone involved certainly anticipates the next A Closer Look in the fall of 2008.”

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