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### **Improving access to care for patients across the region** South East LHIN Board approves funding to reduce wait times for key procedures

#### **NEWS**

The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Board of Directors has approved \$1.5 million to help hospitals across the region reduce wait times for hip and knee surgeries, and other high-volume procedures, such as diagnostic imaging for MRI and CT scans.

The allocation means hospitals within our community can target wait time volumes by providing 113 additional hip and knee surgeries, 600 MRI and 1,940 CT scans.

The one-time funding to be used this fiscal year, will help hospitals across the south east deliver more timely care to patients who currently face long wait lists. In Ontario, wait times are measured from time of booking until the procedure has been carried out.

Hospitals across the South East LHIN have also committed to implementing a Centralized Intake and Assessment Centre (CIAC) for hip and knee surgery across the region in 2017-18. Once implemented, the CIAC will help ensure a patient is promptly assessed after referral, managed proactively and triaged to a surgeon based on urgency and appointment availability.

Providing patients with faster access to better health services is a top priority of the Ontario government, as outlined through the Patients First Action Plan. This additional allocation will also target areas identified by Ontario's Wait Time Strategy.

For more information on wait times in the South East LHIN visit <http://southeasthin.on.ca/Resources/WaitTimes.aspx>

### QUOTES

“The South East LHIN is committed to reducing wait times for patients across the region and continues to work with, and assist hospitals, as they plan and deliver important health care services. Investments like this help provide faster access to the right care and also supports the province’s commitment to putting patients first.”

*-Paul Huras, CEO, South East LHIN*

“This investment demonstrates that patient wellness remains a top priority for the South East LHIN. This funding will continue to support health care providers as they deliver high-quality services in our communities, while ensuring patients in our region continue receiving the best possible care in a timely fashion.”

*- Donna Segal, Board Chair, South East LHIN*

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