



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Wait times plummet with new surgery program** *Innovative care model is “great news” for patients eager for hip, knee replacement surgery*

(Kingston, ON) A fast-track surgery program at Hotel Dieu Hospital is living up to its name as it rapidly downsizes wait lists for hip and knee replacements, speeds patients through their hospital stays and clears the way for more total joint replacement (TJR) surgeries in this region.

“This new model of care has quickly proven its value,” says Dr. Peter Brown, medical director for the joint Hotel Dieu/Kingston General Hospital surgery program.

“The addition of the short-stay TJR program coupled with government funding for joint replacement surgery has drastically decreased wait times in Kingston. Many of our surgeons now have a surgical wait list of less than eight weeks.”

Launched in April 2009, the TJR program broke new ground in the area served by the South East Local Health Integration Network (SE LHIN) by targeting “well” patients who can easily manage a condensed 48-hour hospital stay and who have access to post-operative supports at home. It focuses on educating patients, maximizing post-operative pain control and extending post-surgical physiotherapy.

As of today, the program has completed 99 cases and will celebrate its milestone 100<sup>th</sup> procedure on Monday, Dec. 7.

On average, wait times for TJR surgery have plummeted since April—from 132 days to 95.6 days.

Length of hospital stay has also dropped, from close to a week at KGH to a mere 48 hours or less at Hotel Dieu.

Even patients whose health status necessitates surgery at KGH are benefiting from the short-stay program, says Dr. Dan Borschneck, an orthopedic surgeon and chair of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine at Queen’s University.

“We’ve now transferred to KGH some of the components of care of the Hotel Dieu program—for example, mobilizing patients sooner after surgery and using a different approach to pain control.

“Last year, KGH averaged 6 days of post-operative stay per joint replacement surgery, one of the highest in the province. Now we’re averaging four to five days.”

As the short-stay program celebrates its milestone 100<sup>th</sup> patient and as it revises its criteria to include older patients, Borschneck is spreading the news of its success to family doctors in the region.

“Given the higher than average age of the population in this area we were behind the rest of the province in terms of wait times for surgery,” he says. “We know that many family doctors were referring patients outside of the community due to the frustrations of waiting.

“However, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, SE LHIN and our hospitals, the short-stay program has dramatically reduced wait times and demonstrated just how much can be done in times of fiscal restraint.

“It’s great news for patients eager to move ahead with TJR surgery.”

*Working together, Kingston’s university hospitals provide a continuum of specialized health care in this region. Our hospitals offer leading edge clinical care, pioneering research and outstanding teaching opportunities through their affiliation with Queen’s University. These dynamic partnerships translate into quality patient care for our community.*

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