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Media Release

RE: Hospital preparing for BIG move

Smiths Falls, ON - If you have ever moved from one home to another, you understand that the key to a successful move lies in the details. But just what does it take to move an entire hospital wing? Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital (PSFDH) staff and medical staff move mountains to provide the best patient care, but moving a hospital is not an easy task. Later this week, commencing on May 28th through to May 30th the Smiths Falls site of the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital will transition into the new wing. PSFDH programs/departments including Diagnostic Imaging (Radiology), Ambulatory Care, Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Obstetrics, Operating Rooms (OR's), and others will move entirely into their new home.

For several months, PSFDH has been working in close collaboration with Health Care Relocations (HCR), a company that specializes in moving hospitals throughout North America on the scores of fine details associated with a move of this magnitude and complexity. "This is an enormous undertaking, we are right on target and the team we have assembled has been receptive, organized and outstanding," said Norene Allen, PSFDH on site move coordinator.

The move itself, including equipment, furnishings, personnel and patients is scheduled to begin on May 28th and end on May 30th. Coordinating a hospital move – complete with millions of dollars worth of equipment, staff members, patients, etc. – takes months of planning. Vital aspects of the transition planning and move include:

- Making sure all supplies – from gauze to linens to drugs – are ordered and stocked properly for the new wing;
- Training all staff, volunteers and physicians on the layout of the new wing and orientating them to new nurse call systems, medical gas outlet locations, fire plans, etc.; and
- Working with outside vendors.

Construction crews are putting the final touches on the new hospital wing. It may sound simple enough to move patients from one place to another but the move has to happen without disrupting around-the-clock caregiving.

With the construction to the new wing complete the hospital's main entrance has changed and is now located on Elmsley Street. Brian Allen, Vice President Finance & Support Services stated, "with the addition of a functional main entrance the expectation is that the majority of patients, visitors and family members will be accessing the main entrance." Effective May 31st the new entrance can be accessed. The new entrance also has a designated drop-off zone. Pedestrian access has also been incorporated from the hospital's new main parking lot to the main entrance.

Once the move has successfully taken place the hospital will embark on re-developing the existing hospital site over the course of the next year.

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