

## PDA INITIATIVE FOR ONTARIO NURSES

May 13, 2008

Ontario is investing \$3 million for Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), an initiative that allows nurses to deliver more effective care to patients.

This investment will allow long-term care homes, hospitals and other organizations to buy 1,390 hand-held devices for front-line nurses. This is the first provincial government funded nursing initiative of its kind in Canada.

### BENEFIT TO PATIENTS

PDAs provide nurses with instant access to a range of clinical tools and programs, helping nurses respond to the health care needs of patients with enhanced speed and accuracy. Under the current initiative, 1,390 devices are being purchased, giving up to 2000 nurses bedside access to PDA technology. Bringing evidence-based practice to the bedside will result in improved patient outcomes throughout the health care system.

### PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS

PDAs are hand-held computer devices that store information, provide access to resources and offer a range of interactive clinical tools for practitioners. Under the PDA initiative, each device will include:

- Drug database
- Calculator
- Medical dictionary
- Registered Nursing Association of Ontario (RNAO) best practice guides
- Lexi or Pepid Nursing Suites which provide clinical point-of-care reference materials and comprehensive drug information
- McMaster Nursing Plus which provides a database of best evidence from medical literature
- Organization-specific resources including policies and procedures, medical directives, and infection control guidelines

### PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Ontario is providing funding to 30 organizations, including hospitals, long-term care homes, public health units, family health teams, home health care agencies and correctional services institutions, for the purchase of PDAs.

Organization	City	LHIN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bayshore Home Health</li> <li>▪ Saint Elizabeth Health Care</li> </ul>	Mississauga Markham	Provide services across numerous LHINs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ VHA Home HealthCare</li> </ul>	Toronto	Central, Central East, Toronto Central, Central West, Erie St. Clair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Victorian Order of Nurses</li> </ul>	Ottawa	South East, Central East

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services</li> </ul>	12 sites	Various LHINs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre</li> </ul>	Thunder Bay	North West
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Algonquin Nursing Home</li> <li>▪ Foyer des Pionniers</li> <li>▪ Hopital Notre Dame Hospital</li> <li>▪ Ontario Finnish Resthome Association</li> <li>▪ Timmins Family Health Team</li> </ul>	Mattawa Hearst Hearst Sault Ste. Marie  Timmins	North East
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brant Community Healthcare System</li> <li>▪ John Noble Home</li> <li>▪ Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital</li> <li>▪ St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton</li> </ul>	Brantford  Brantford Burlington Hamilton	Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CanCare Health Services Inc.</li> <li>▪ H.J. McFarland Memorial Home</li> </ul>	Belleville Picton	South East
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chesley Park LTC</li> <li>▪ Woodingford Lodge</li> <li>▪ Knollcrest Lodge</li> </ul>	London Woodstock Milverton	South West
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario</li> <li>▪ Extendicare</li> <li>▪ We Care Home Health Services</li> </ul>	Ottawa  Ottawa Ottawa	Champlain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Christie Gardens</li> <li>▪ The O'Neill Centre</li> <li>▪ University Health Network</li> </ul>	Toronto Toronto Toronto	Toronto Central
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comcare Health Services</li> <li>▪ North Wellington Health Care &amp; Groves Memorial Hospital</li> </ul>	Kitchener  Fergus	North West, Erie St. Clair, Waterloo Wellington Waterloo Wellington
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Windsor Regional Hospital</li> </ul>	Windsor	Erie St. Clair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jarlette Health Services</li> </ul>	Midland	North Simcoe Muskoka