



KIRKLAND AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL ENGLEHART AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL



Working Together to Meet YOUR Health Care Needs

Q and A

A voluntary merger between Englehart and District Hospital and Kirkland and District Hospital is pending approval from the North East I Local Health Integration Network (NELHIN). Both boards of the hospitals will be submitting a joint integration proposal next month, which explains how each community they serve has health care challenges with complex medical and social needs and how their infrastructure is aging.

Standing still and standing alone is no longer a viable option. It is for this reason the two organizations are proposing the creation of a new health service provider with a single governance and management model that will benefit the people they provide care too.

Key Board Communications

We are excited to announce that the Board of Directors for both Englehart and District Hospital and Kirkland and District Hospital has voted unanimously to take the next steps toward full amalgamation of the two hospitals. Both boards have committed to the following key components of the amalgamation that include:

1. That each hospital is considered equal in all decisions.
2. Commitment that no hospital will close due to amalgamation.
3. Following Patient First philosophy, all core services in both hospitals will remain as they are today and will not be closed as a result of amalgamation. Core services include: Emergency Department, Medical Inpatient (beds) Services, and Operating Rooms.
4. Community information/consultation sessions will take place as part of the amalgamation process.
5. That the information received from the sessions will be considered by both boards prior to the final approval of amalgamation.

Q: Why integrate voluntarily?

A: It's about sharing our resources more effectively which means you have more dollars for patient care rather than spending it on higher prices for equipment and supplies. We also wanted to choose our future path as we don't know what the Ministry of Health's future plans are with regards to amalgamating hospitals and/or services. As partners we share common values, common mission and a shared history of serving our communities for many years. The voluntary integration is really a great path forward to make sure our health services remain strong and viable in both communities.

Q: What does this merger mean for the two hospitals?

A: For the two sites it's a positive integration because what it does is look at how we can use our resources most effectively to invest back into patient care to make sure our organizations are sustainable in the future. Our hospitals have had very little new money over the last few years so we have to look at how to make sure we're using the dollars we have, the best way we can to continue to manage the ever complex health needs of our communities.

Q: Will programs and services be affected by the merger?

A: Anything like that is possible (even) without integration; we are always looking at that through the lens of what is best for the patient. But through this integration at this point and time, that's not part of it. All of our services and programs will stay the same. Nothing goes away.

Q: What changes will patients see if any?

A: Some of it they will not see. They will just notice their access to care and newer equipment. So we will still be ensuring that they have ongoing access to care, good access to state-of-the-art equipment and the best models of care. Will the average patient coming through the front door see the changes? No, but what they will see is services and programs not closing down because we're running a huge deficit. There will be changes, but most patients will not notice that.