



Press Release

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2009

Media Release for Southern Ontario News Outlets

Canadian Patient Safety Week - November 2 to 6, 2009

Canadian Patient Safety Week is a national campaign to raise awareness about patient safety.

Patient Safety is everyone's responsibility

There are more deaths each year due to adverse events or preventable harm in Canadian hospitals than deaths from breast cancer, motor vehicle accidents and HIV combined. The most common types of adverse events in hospitals are events related to surgical procedures (34%); medication or IV's (24%); patients receiving wrong medication or dosage (9%); and adults contracting infections while in hospital (9%).

Patient Safety Week at Woodstock General Hospital

To launch Patient Safety Week, John Lewis, author of the book "Beware the Grieving Warrior" spoke to our staff about his 11- year- old daughter Claire, who was one of two children who died due to post-operative complications in a Hamilton hospital. John, a registered nurse, spoke about his fight, in the midst of immeasurable grief and sorrow, to ensure his daughter's death brought changes to the healthcare system. Other sessions throughout the week include education blitzes on the Code of Conduct Policy, Medication and Domestic Violence. Everyone in the healthcare field plays an important role in improving communication around patient safety. During Patient Safety Week, Woodstock General Hospital is hosting a number of activities to encourage the sharing of information about best practices in patient safety with our healthcare providers, patients and their families.

"Good healthcare starts with good communication"

Good healthcare starts with good communication. Patients, their families, together with healthcare workers are encouraged to communicate – ASK questions. LISTEN to the answers. TALK about any concerns. **Ask. Listen. Talk.**

Canadian Patient Safety Week is an initiative of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, which was established in 2003 to provide national leadership in building and advancing a safer Canadian health system.

- # -

For more information, please contact:

Natasa Veljovic
President & CEO
Woodstock General Hospital
519-421-4211 #2240

Vicki Davey
Communications Co-Ordinator
Woodstock General Hospital
519-421-4226