

**North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network**  
**Decision issued pursuant to s.25(2)(a) of the**  
**Local Health System Integration Act, 2006**

**Integration:** Regional Laboratory Coordinator

**Date:** Monday, June 25, 2007

**Parties to Decision**

The following organizations are in agreement with the decision:

- Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare ( Huntsville District Memorial Hospital and South Muskoka Memorial Hospital)
- Collingwood General and Marine Hospital
- North Simcoe Hospital Alliance (Huron District Hospital and Penetanguishene General Hospital)
- Royal Victoria Hospital
- Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital

**Facts**

1. The above organizations, in agreement to this decision, are all public acute care hospitals with the exception of the Penetanguishene General Hospital which provides complex continuing care and rehabilitation. All of the corporations provide some level of laboratory services. These organizations, with the exception of Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston, are located in North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN and between them provide services to all geographic areas of the LHIN.
2. The purpose of the proposed integration is to build on the existing clinical laboratory collaboration to develop a Network-wide service delivery plan, with common infrastructure, processes and operating model. The first step to achieving this is the recruitment of a Regional Laboratory Coordinator. In addition, the integration will achieve operational cost savings and capital cost avoidance through consolidation of select clinical laboratory services across the Network.
3. To date, this project has been a Simcoe Muskoka Health Network initiative, arising from both the Deloitte Collaborative Efficiency Review and from the need to move beyond a voluntary structure in order to promote effective change.

**Process**

The NSM LHIN CEO, as an ex-officio member of the Simcoe Muskoka Health Network, was present and participated in discussions for the submission of the original business plan on July 14, 2006 and the subsequent update to the CEOs of the Network provided on December 15, 2006. The LHIN CEO also participated in further discussions and subsequent approval by the CEOs of the Network to move forward with the recruitment of a permanent Regional Laboratory Coordinator on April 13, 2007.

Commitment to move ahead, with the following actions, was approved by the Network CEO group on July 14, 2006:

Commitment to move ahead, with the following actions, was approved by the Network CEO group on July 14, 2006:

- Development of the governance
- Implementation of the Regional Administrative Structure (Further approval to proceed with the recruitment of a Regional Laboratory Coordinator was granted at the April 13, 2007 meeting of the Network CEOs). This action initiates the implementation of the regional administrative structure.
- Development of a Service Agreement

The NSM LHIN has participated in the discussion for a Regional Laboratory Service Plan and worked with the Chair and clinical lead of the Regional Laboratory Services Task Force to clarify and provide materials to the Board of Directors of the NSM LHIN (and to the Board of Directors of Central LHIN).

#### **Analysis of Intended Integration**

Timely, quality-based, efficient laboratory testing is a fundamental requirement in the delivery of patient-centered healthcare. The NSM LHIN has committed to a strategic direction to use our resources wisely. Within that direction, one of the goals outlined in the Integrated Health Service Plan is to develop new approaches for clinical programs. With limited resources and the growing demand for services, health care organizations must try to do more with the same resources. One way is by implementing regional clinical programs that provide a more efficient, safer environment in which a higher level of expertise and care may be provided to patients.

#### **Decision**

Pursuant to subsection 25(2)(a) of the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 (LHSIA), the Simcoe Muskoka Health Network is hereby required to execute the recruitment of a Regional Laboratory Coordinator for North Simcoe Muskoka identified in the Regional Laboratory Service Plan by September 2007. Any further decisions related to the Lab Service Plan that meet the definition of Integration in the Act are to be identified to the LHIN pursuant to the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 and acted upon accordingly. The parties to the agreement are also hereby required to take the following actions:

- Development of a Service Agreement by April 1, 2008

#### **Authorized Signature**

As authorized by the Board of Directors at the June 25, 2007 Board of Directors' meeting, this decision is signed by the Board Chair on behalf of the:

**North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network**

Signature: RS Rosen

Date: JUN 26 2007

Name: Ruben Rosen

Title: Board Chair