



## Hospital Improving Cancer Services

A recent Canadian Cancer Society study predicts that during the 25-year period between 2005 and 2039 the number of cancer patient is expected to double for patients 65 years of age and above. By knowing this information now it allows us to plan for tomorrow. The hospitals goal is to partner with Cancer Care Ontario to provide Oncology Services to patients in our community needing chemotherapy and to provide palliative care services to those needing it at the end or their life.

Discussions are underway with Cancer Care Ontario in Sudbury to resume oncology services. We recently renovated our pharmacy, chemotherapy outpatient suite and dedicated a patient room to palliative care. Since we last provided the services, new medication preparation guidelines and staff education requirements were issued and we need to ensure these are in place before we can resume services. We would like to move more quickly with resuming the service but need to ensure that best practice guidelines are in place. The revitalized palliative care room has a new bed and furniture and we are currently in the process of decorating the room. The room is one of our largest and can accommodate family members who would like to stay with the patient 24 hours a day.

Palliative Care is a holistic approach to active, supportive care for patients and their families facing a life-threatening illness. The goal of care is to prevent suffering, while promoting dignity and an excellent quality of life up to the end-of-life. People of any age, ethnicity, culture or religion can benefit from palliative care. The majority of people who receive palliative care services in dedicated programs are those with cancer, however, it is appropriate for patients needing end-of-life care with non-cancer diagnosis as well.

Patients with a progressive life-limiting illness and their family members will be at the center of the care at SSCHS. The services provided will be tailored to a person's needs and preferences. The health team will have conversations with the person about their understanding of their illness, their values and beliefs, and their goals and wishes for future care. Advance planning discussions should occur early and be ongoing as the person's needs and preferences change. Every effort will be made by our health team to assist the person to die with dignity and in peace and comfort, based on individual choices.