



Press Release

For Immediate Release – April 14, 2010

Blind River District Health Centre Connects for High Quality Care

BLIND RIVER, ON: MediTech is live at BRDHC. MediTech (Medical Information Technology Inc.) is a leading software package in the health informatics industry, providing integrated software solutions that meet the information needs of health care organizations worldwide. With the focus on electronic health records, the purpose of the technology is patient oriented, designed to make the flow of information easier. The Blind River District Health Centre is excited to join in the North Eastern Ontario Network (NEON), to help provide seamless delivery of health care throughout Northeastern Ontario.

NEON was first created through the shared software contract with MediTech in October 1998, followed by the NEON Shared Information System Service Agreement in 1999 between 7 corporations. The goal of the partnership is the creation of an integrated patient record to allow for seamless delivery of healthcare through Northeastern Ontario and to realize opportunities for sharing resources and economies of scale and thus cost savings.

Over a period from 2003 – 2006, 3 more corporations were added. In 2007 2 more hospitals joined the consortium and were due to go live with the systems in 2008. Today, the NEON consortium represents well over 1500 beds, 13 corporations, and 16 physical hospitals. Most importantly, this information sharing system allows patient records to be more easily accessed by health care providers across Northeastern Ontario, avoiding any unnecessary duplicate testing. As BRDHC Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Stanton Smith explains “it is for the patients. The program is designed to provide better flow of patient health information. In the future, if patients go to Chapleau, Elliot Lake, or Sudbury the health care providers in those hospitals will have access to all the tests that have been done here.”

BRDHC initiated the move to MediTech to first meet the technology needs in the lab. The previous software contract was expiring, and without a move to something new, the lab would be at risk. As the implementation progresses, various other modules will be developed including: finance, admitting, health records, payroll, diagnostic imaging, materials management, pharmacy, and nursing.

There are 2 phases of implementation, and the project itself is expected to take two years to complete. Each individual module is expected to require 6 months implementation.

Phase 1 began in October 2009 and includes the lab, diagnostic imaging, finance, materials management, admitting, health records, and payroll. Phase 2 will include pharmacy and community wide scheduling and core teams will begin building this module in October 2010.

Most modules from phase 1 went live on April 13, 2010 including: Admissions/Medical Records/Abstracting, Laboratory, Imaging and Therapeutic Services, Order Entry/Electronic Medical Records, Billing and Accounts Receivable Live.

But these were not the first modules to go live. April 1st marked the go-live date for the General Ledger / Fixed Assets. April 7th marked the go-live date for Materials Management and Accounts Payable.

In some instances, the transition to MediTech has caused facilities to reassess how certain processes occur.

At the Blind River District Health Centre, effective **April 13, 2010**, there have been changes made to registration procedures.

All patients must now register at the main Registration desk. This includes **all** Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging patients.

As a result, the Health Centre has experienced an increase in waiting times at the registration point. The Blind River District Health Centre is sorry for any inconvenience that this transition may cause.

To help ease waiting times, we are asking all patients to remember to always bring their Ontario Health Card.

If patients are visiting the Emergency Department, we also ask that they bring all medications —including over-the-counter medications along with them.

These changes are necessary to accommodate moving towards electronic health records, so that the Blind River District Health Centre may continue to provide patients with safe, high quality care.

-End-

NOTE: For more information regarding the MediTech implementation, please contact Jennifer Stanton Smith, Chief Financial Officer at 356-2265 Ext.2612.