



## News Release

### Patient Safety Forum Gives Public and Caregivers the Chance to have Their Say in Balancing Risk and Safety in Long Term Care

#### **For Immediate Release**

**Nov 6, 2009 (Winnipeg, MB):** On November 12, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (Institute) will host a public forum centered around Long Term Care (LTC). The event is co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA).

Balancing the need for autonomy and safety is a significant challenge when providing long term care services to older persons. Policies and regulations intended to ensure patient safety can conflict with an individual's or their family's ability to make the choices they prefer.

Health care providers and the public are encouraged to attend and share experiences and perspective on November 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Life and Learning Centre at Deer Lodge Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 2109 Portage Avenue.

"The question of quality of life versus risk and harm can be a complicated, emotional and volatile tug of war between healthcare providers, residents and their family and loved ones," said Laurie Thompson, Executive director of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety.

"For example, should a 97-year-old woman be able to have the brown sugar she loves and craves so much on her morning porridge if she is diabetic?" asked Thompson. "How do we achieve the fullest quality of life for seniors in long term care without compromising patient safety?"

Dr. Rosalie Kane, professor of public health at the University of Minnesota and faculty member of the Center for Biomedical Ethics, School of Social Work, and the Center on Aging will be the featured speaker. Dr. Kane will argue that too often both safety and quality of life are unnecessarily compromised in long term care settings. Using examples, she will discuss how to divide responsibility for decision making and outcome between the person receiving services and the care providers.

"This public forum will provide a venue for thought provoking discussion and reflection. It is directly related to the primary goal of our association which is advocacy for seniors and the staff who serve them," states Jan Legeros, Executive Director of the Long Term & Continuing Care Association of Manitoba. "We are pleased to provide our support for this event."

Réal Cloutier, WRHA Vice President of Long Term Care and Chief Operating Officer of Deer Lodge Centre will provide a short overview of the evolution on long term care (past, present and future) in Manitoba and will moderate the event. The final part of the evening will provide an opportunity for people to ask questions or share experiences on the subject as well as provide perspective on their ideas for evolving long term care in Manitoba.

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#### PREMIER MEMBERS

“Many of us care for seniors and want the absolute best for them. People are living longer today than any other time in human history. Advances and knowledge in health have contributed to a longer life span. While life spans are extended, no matter what - people will age, frailty will increase and life eventually ends, said WRHA’s Vice President of Long Term Care, Réal Cloutier. “The discussion with health providers and families today is often around balancing between what we can do versus what we should do. How much risk are we willing to tolerate and at what expense to autonomy and overall quality of life? These are important questions care providers and families must consider and there is often no right answer. “

The “*Living In Care*” forum is the second in a series by the Institute called “*We Listen, We Learn, We Evolve*”. The first forum in November 2007 focused on the importance of disclosure and apologies to patients and their families when adverse healthcare events take place. The purpose of the series is to give Manitobans a greater voice on a subject that the Institute members feel is of interest and importance to the public regarding patient safety in Manitoba’s healthcare system.

***The November 12<sup>th</sup> forum is free of charge. No registration is required. Please encourage others to attend by sharing the information about this event in your organization and with your family and friends.***

The public can receive more information by calling the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety at 204-927-6477.

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