



Information Communiqué

A First for Canada - Patient Safety Forum on Mental Health Issues to take place Healthcare Providers and the Public Invited to Share Views on May 5, 2010

For Immediate Release

May 3, 2010 (Winnipeg, MB): On the evening of Wednesday, May 5, 2010, the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety and the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM) will co-host a public forum for patient safety in Mental Health. The event is supported by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA).

The *Removing Barriers for Recovery Forum* recognizes that we all have a hand in making mental health care safer. Healthcare providers and the public are encouraged to attend and share experiences and perspectives on May 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Boniface Research Centre, 351 Taché Avenue in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

“We know there are factors that affect patient safety in mental health. For example, do stigmas about mental health affect patient safety?” said Laurie Thompson, Executive Director of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety. “The forum gives service providers, recipients of services and policy makers an excellent opportunity to learn from and with persons with a lived experience of mental illness and their families.”

The central forum speaker will be Dr. Ben Thomas, the Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability for the National Patient Safety Agency, Department of Health, England and National Health Service, United Kingdom. Dr. Thomas will provide his insights and experiences in creating programs and initiative that have helped make the agency a world leader in patient safety in mental healthcare.

The forum will launch three days of learning and professional development by psychiatric nurses who are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the regulation of the psychiatric nursing profession in Manitoba.

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PREMIER MEMBERS

“Psychiatric nursing marks 50 years as a regulated profession in Manitoba this year,” said Annette Osted, the executive director of the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba. “We want to enter the next half century working alongside Manitobans to follow Dr. Thomas’ lead in dramatically growing patient safety culture in our mental health agencies, programs and practices.”

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS) promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of health care for Manitobans.

The forum co-presenter, the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba is a member organization of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety. The college administers the *Registered Psychiatric Nurses Act*, its regulations and the CRPNM by-laws effectively. It provides support to Registered Psychiatric Nurses for safe, effective practice and works to ensure Registered Psychiatric Nurses are full participants in the development, implementation and evaluation of an effective, integrated mental health services delivery system.

The “*Removing Barriers To Recovery*” forum is the third in a series by the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety 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. Patient safety in long term care was the subject of the second forum. The purpose of the series is to give Manitobans a greater voice on a subject that is of interest and importance to the public regarding patient safety in Manitoba’s healthcare system.

The May 5th forum is free of charge. No advance registration is required to attend the Winnipeg-based Forum in person. Those wishing to participate from outside of Winnipeg may have the opportunity to view and interact live from other communities with the Winnipeg-based forum participants. A live interactive broadcast is available at Regional Health Authorities outside Winnipeg. Healthcare providers and members of the public can call TeleHealth for information at 1-866-667-9891.

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