

For Immediate Release

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Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Carleton Place, ON

Carleton Place Hospital Purchases New Cardiac Care Monitors



CPDMH Nurses, Lorraine Waddell, Joanne Frost and Brenda DeVries demonstrate the new cardiac monitors to fellow nurse, Steve Thurgood

The Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) is pleased to announce that it has purchased new cardiac care monitors for the inpatient unit and the emergency department. The monitors were purchased with the funds raised from the *Help Improve Tomorrow Today!* campaign and cost approximately \$171,000.

“It was becoming very hard to find the necessary parts to fix the old monitors so they had to be replaced,” stated Toni Surko, AED of Patient Services at CPDMH. “After a product evaluation process, the clinical preference was a monitor with proven system performance, supportive service agreement and the ability to download patient information from our system to a compatible unit at most of the Ottawa hospitals – they were our monitor of choice.”

The new monitors measure vital signs and provides a 12 lead electrocardiogram (ECG) of interpretation of heart rhythms for patients in cardiac distress as well as any other patient that needs close monitoring for treatment and diagnosis. The system has three wall mounted bed side units on the inpatient unit and one portable unit in the emergency department. There are also has three telemetry packs that allow staff to monitor a patient’s vitals anywhere within the hospital. The full system gives the hospital the ability to monitor seven patients at one time. With the previous system, the hospital could only monitor four patients who would have been restricted to their beds.

“The telemetry packs are a tremendous help in monitoring our patients. A patient is now able to leave their rooms and be more independent while we collect the necessary information for their treatment”, stated Laurie Scissions, Nurse Manage of the Inpatient Unit and Discharge Planner at CPDMH. “It has resulted in our patients being more comfortable during their stay at the hospital because they are not restricted to their beds and are able to live a relatively normal life.”

The new cardiac monitors are a vital piece of equipment for CPDMH. In 2005/06 there were approximately 793 admissions to CPDMH's inpatient unit and over 15% of those admissions were patients with complaints of chest pain or other symptoms of cardiac distress that required the patient to be monitored.

“All of the purchases we have made as a result of the *Help Improve Tomorrow Today!* campaign have been important to improving patient care”, continued Mrs. Surko. “The cardiac care monitors will enhance patient safety, comfort and diagnosis. I would like to thank the community for their generosity in helping us purchase the monitors and I'm sure the patients benefiting from the system are very grateful as well.”

The monitors were installed in early March and at that time in-service training was provided to the nursing staff on the touch screen options, operations and the various diagnostic functions of the equipment.

“Our new monitors have touch screens that are very modern and user friendly,” continued Mrs. Scissions. “The system has improved the day to day treatment of our patients and we are very happy with our purchase.”

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