

# Bringing the Specialist to You

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) has been providing health care via Telemedicine since 2001. In fact, the Hospital has one of the largest Telemedicine programs in the region. CPDMH is part of the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN).

In 2010, 335 patients were cared for via Telemedicine at CPDMH. In 2016, that number grew to 2,342.

Telemedicine connects patients and health care providers using two-way, secure video-conferencing, reducing the stress and time needed to travel to receive care. It can help improve access to care and care coordination, and reduce wait times.

A Telemedicine appointment is just like a regular appointment, only the health care provider is on a monitor and uses tele-diagnostic equipment to hear heart and breath sounds and a special



camera to provide close-up images – all as if you are sitting in the same room. At each appointment, patients are able to see, hear and talk to a doctor or other health professional.

Registered Nurse Denise Davies has been CPDMH's Telemedicine Coordinator since the program began. "I love my job. Seventeen years ago, no one knew what Telemedicine was. Now patients can really see the benefits. And they love coming to their familiar local hospital instead of travelling to see a specialist."

CPDMH's established Telemedicine programs include such specialties such as Hematology, Respirology, Dermatology and Endocrinology. The system also supports weekly rounds, linking health care providers with colleagues at other facilities. Finally, the technology is used for meetings and education sessions.

Recently, CPDMH added a new piece of equipment to its program. The new clinical system has upgraded software and includes a larger 40" screen, providing better images.

To access the program, patients require referrals from their family doctor. For more information on the program or services offered at CPDMH, please contact Denise Davies at 613-253-3821 or [ddavies@carletonplacehosp.com](mailto:ddavies@carletonplacehosp.com) or visit [www.cpdmh.ca/telemedicine](http://www.cpdmh.ca/telemedicine).