



Horizon Health Network and Partners

A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

ADDENDUM

March 2018



RÉSEAU DE SANTÉ

Horizon
HEALTH NETWORK

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1

Above all, we will work with our patients, clients, families and communities to create and sustain quality and safe care.

The core mission of Horizon Health Network is to provide quality and safe health care to the citizens of New Brunswick. Quality and safety must be the pillars of any health system. The current strategic priority speaks to this care being provided in consultation with patients and their families. The literature clearly indicates that as collaboration with patients, clients and their families increases, so does the quality of care.

As a result of the commitment of this province to community health needs assessments, we have a comprehensive list of the needs of each of our communities. It is important for Horizon to use these needs assessments to guide service delivery and the engagement work we do in our communities. We need to involve patients, clients and family members as citizens of their communities to help guide this work. To this end, we will look this year at our community advisory committees, our local community engagement committees, and our Patient and Family Advisory Council to develop one mechanism in designated communities that will advise Horizon on this work.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2

With the partnership support of our medical and management team, and based on evidence and sufficient volumes, we will establish Horizon Health Network centres of expertise that foster and communicate strong clinical leadership, improve patient outcomes and drive research activity as a core activity.

This current strategic priority speaks to the development of centres of expertise within Horizon. At present, Horizon has three centres of expertise – namely, the New Brunswick Heart Centre, the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation, and the newly developed Seniors Health Collaborative. Centres of expertise should be the goal for any health system focused on quality and safety. Research data clearly demonstrates that standardization and harmonization of practice lead to increased quality.

Currently, Horizon has some pre-work to do in terms of identifying and strengthening all of its clinical networks before they can move successfully to centres of expertise. A number of our networks are in various stages of development. Some networks are functioning well, but have significant work to do. Some are in their infancy, while others with the required leadership and resources could move quickly to centres of expertise.

Our goal for the next two years is to get all the clinical networks within Horizon functioning at an acceptable standardized level. We need each of the networks meeting regularly and developing work plans to systematically move the program area forward; and we need each of the sites that offer the program to be actively involved.

Any network/program area that is ready to move to a centre of expertise will be encouraged to do so.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3

We will focus on the primary healthcare system.

This priority speaks to decreasing the relative share of the resources of Horizon in acute care and reallocating these resources to community and tertiary care. This priority was developed with a belief that Horizon could repurpose some of its smaller facilities. However, with a stated government priority that no small community hospital will close, this priority is no longer possible to achieve.

Instead, Horizon Health Network will focus its efforts on strengthening the primary health-care system in New Brunswick using our smaller community hospitals as a key component of this initiative. Combined with our Community Health Centres, Health Centres/Clinics, Public Health and Mental Health and Addictions, these organizations will offer comprehensive primary health-care services in response to the needs of our communities.

If we are successful in strengthening primary care, New Brunswickers should become less reliant on the tertiary and specialized care offered in our regional sites.

Building on what we have, robust primary care can be offered in our communities. Only when the primary health-care system is unable to respond to the needs of a citizen should that individual be referred to a specialist and tertiary system.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #4

Through collaboration with government, other agencies and organizations, we will advocate for major organizational change and secure partnership opportunities to enhance the care provided to New Brunswick.

Horizon and its leadership have and will continue to actively collaborate with key health-care partners such as the Department of Health, Social Development, Vitalité Health Network and Medavie Blue Cross to improve health care in New Brunswick.

