

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

North York Family Health Team and North York General Hospital Receive Honourable Mention for Innovation in Cancer Care

Toronto, Nov. 30, 2012 – A Colorectal Cancer Survivorship Program that has decreased duplication of care, allowing oncologists and surgeons to assess and treat newly diagnosed colorectal patients more quickly, has won the North York Family Health Team (NYFHT) and North York General Hospital (NYGH) an Honourable Mention for Innovation in the 2012 Cancer Quality Council of Ontario’s (CQCO) Quality and Innovation competition.

“CQCO’s recognition of the Colorectal Cancer Survivorship Program means a lot to everyone who worked so hard to get it off the ground,” said Dr. Kimberly Wintemute, Medical Director, NYFHT. “This program is a terrific example of how, through collaboration, and with interprofessional teams, we can provide high quality care in an efficient manner.”

“At NYGH we are committed to collaborating with family physicians in our community to provide high quality care that is well coordinated. The Colorectal Cancer Survivorship Program is an excellent example of how we can improve the integration of care, which ultimately improves the patient experience,” said Dr. Tim Rutledge, President and CEO, NYGH.

The North York Family Health Team/North York General Hospital Colorectal Cancer Survivorship Program (CCSP) is a nurse practitioner-led cancer survivorship initiative for patients who have completed active treatment for colorectal cancer and require five year surveillance for cancer recurrence or metastases.

The CCSP reduces duplication of care, results in fewer specialist appointments billed to OHIP, eliminates costly duplication of tests and streamlines care into one location provided by one healthcare professional.

“This year’s Quality and Innovation awards recognize those who have significantly improved the level and delivery of quality care throughout Ontario and helped spur innovation in caring for cancer patients,” said Dr. Robert Bell, Chair of CQCO and President and CEO of the University Health Network. “The initiatives launched by this year’s award winners hold tremendous promise and potential in continuing and accelerating important progress in cancer care.”

The annual awards, sponsored by CQCO, Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), and the Ontario Division of the Canadian Cancer Society, recognize organizations that have made significant contributions to quality or innovation in the delivery of cancer care across Ontario.

Now in their seventh year, the awards honour the development of new approaches, processes, products, or programs that are bold, original and significantly enhance cancer care in Ontario through their impact on stakeholders, their meaningfulness to patients, and their cost effectiveness and sustainability.

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The North York Family Health Team (NYFHT) is composed of a multidisciplinary team of Registered Nurses, Social Workers, Registered Dietitians, Nurse Practitioners, Chiropractors, Pharmacists and 67 Family Physicians. There are approximately 66,000 patients rostered with the FHT Family Physicians. NYFHT is an academic Family Health Team associated with the Department of Family & Community Medicine at North York General Hospital and the University of Toronto.

North York General Hospital, affiliated with the University of Toronto, is one of Canada's leading community academic hospitals. We offer our culturally diverse community a wide range of acute care, ambulatory and long-term care services across three sites. The hospital embraces health by providing innovative and compassionate care for the whole family at every stage of life.

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