

September 21, 2006

Dear Colleague,

The Blood Programs Coordinating Office (BPCO) at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is pleased to announce the establishment of the Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network (ORBCoN) initiative.

Ontario's priority for improved management of blood resources and patient safety has resulted in the creation of a provincial blood office. Now in operation for almost a year, one of the key roles of the BPCO is to manage Ontario's relationship with the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) in collaboration with other Provincial/Territorial representatives.

Secondly, the BPCO provides leadership and coordination in the development and implementation of a blood utilization strategy for the province, to ensure the safe and appropriate use of blood and blood products.

In order to implement and support these responsibilities the Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network (ORBCoN) initiative has been established to provide an organized and integrated approach to blood management. Three regional networks have been established to facilitate communication with hospitals and support implementation of best practices in blood management. Boundaries for these networks parallel those of Canadian Blood Services.

ORBCoN is not intended to replace or duplicate existing structures, but rather will support and enhance the planning, coordination and integration already being undertaken in many parts of the province. A host organization has been selected within each region, including a Project Sponsor, to house and provide expertise and guidance to regional teams.

In addition, the Ontario Blood Advisory Committee (OBAC) has been established to serve as a broad based external advisory group to the MOHLTC on blood system issues in the province. OBAC will also provide guidance and assist the BPCO in developing a strategic plan and prioritizing issues that need to be addressed within the province.

You will receive communications from the Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network in the near future, which will provide more detailed information on the networks. In the interim, if you would like to get in touch with your Regional Blood Coordinating Network, please see below for the appropriate contact information.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Pagonis  
Manager  
Blood Programs Coordinating Office

<b>Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network (ORBCoN) Contact Information</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Host Organization</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Regional Blood Coordinator</b>	<b>Coordinator Telephone &amp; Email</b>
Central	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto	Dr. Jeannie Callum	Nicole Kirby	416-480-6100 ext. 89434 nicole.kirby@sunnybrook.ca
North & Eastern Ontario (NEON)	The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa	Dr. Antonio Giulivi	Wendy Owens	613-798-5555 ext. 19740 wowens@ottawahospital.on.ca
Southwest	McMaster University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Hamilton	Ms. Nancy Heddle	Kate Gagliardi	905-525-9140 ext. 22915 gaglikat@hhsc.ca