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MORE^{OB} Program to Enhance Care for Mothers and Newborns in GASHA

Antigonish: The Children and Women's Health Team at St. Martha's Regional Hospital are the first in Nova Scotia to begin implementation of the **MORE^{OB}** Program.

MORE^{OB} is a comprehensive, three-year, patient safety, professional development, and performance improvement program for caregivers and administrators in hospital obstetrics units. Delivered onsite at St. Martha's Regional Hospital, the program brings together key healthcare providers in obstetrical care to learn ways to provide leadership and motivate change in their environment which will lead to better outcomes and enhanced satisfaction.

"This program is different because all programming and team based learning takes place on site at St. Martha's, as opposed to individuals going offsite for instruction," says Dr. Jeremy Hillyard, District Chief of Staff for GASHA. "The benefit to staff is that lessons learned are more likely to be put into practice and sustained because they take place in the actual practice environment."

The **MORE^{OB}** program builds and sustains a culture of safety by developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors and practices that make patient safety the number one priority. The program focuses on the key elements of culture change, communication, collaboration, teamwork, reflective learning and system improvements to foster an environment of safety.

In 2009, Health Canada approached the Atlantic Advisory Committee for Health Human Resources (AACHHR) with a funding opportunity to develop Collaborative Learning Environments. Because of the work that is occurring in Atlantic Canada regarding new and innovative approaches to delivering care, a project that focused on primary, community based well woman and low-risk obstetrical care was chosen.

"GASHA was chosen because of how they have supported the development of a collaborative team of primary health care providers who are delivering low-risk obstetrical care to the community," says Jennifer Murdoch, Manager of Health Human Resources, Nova Scotia Department of Health. "They have effectively designed their team to ensure that women and their families receive high quality care by a small group of professionals who embrace a set of shared competencies."

The Perinatal Clinic, at St. Martha's Regional Hospital opened last year and focuses on access to shared care for expectant mothers provided by obstetricians, a midwife and other healthcare professionals in a supportive and caring environment. The Clinic is part of the Children and Women's Health service, which will implement the **MORE^{OB}** Program.

"St. Martha's Regional Hospital is one of three model sites implementing publicly funded midwifery in Nova Scotia," says Judy Chisholm, Interdisciplinary Team Coordinator, Nova Scotia Department of Health. "The Perinatal Clinic is demonstrating how midwives can be successfully integrated into the current system using differing care delivery models."

In this spring's Speech from the Throne, the Honorable Mayann Francis, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, spoke to the importance of a health system that puts quality and patient safety first. "We believe the goals of the **MORE^{OB}** program are very much in line with that vision," says Dr. Hillyard.

The **MORE^{OB}** program has been delivering results for more than five years to thousands of caregivers, their obstetric teams, their hospitals quality performance and the women they care for in other provinces. To learn more about the MORE OB Program, visit www.moreob.com

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