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MEDIA RELEASE

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Clinical Excellence Continues at SMGH

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) Hip & Knee Joint Replacement Program was described as an “Excellent program with opportunity for growth: One of the highest efficiency joint programs seen by [us] in Canada,” is one of the concluding remarks of a recent peri-operative review at Strathroy Hospital by Sullivan HealthCare Consulting (SHC) of Canada.

“The Hip & Knee program has received much praise from our peers and our patients since we started it in 2006. However, it is always good to be able to objectively confirm with patients, physicians and staff that we are demonstrating clinical excellence at MHA,” Dr. Paul Ferner, Chief of Staff at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH), says.

The objective of the review was to find ways to improve efficiency and identify opportunities for improvement in the surgical program at SMGH. The SHC review interviewed surgeons and anesthesiologists, staff and managers, reviewed data and compared the program against similar-sized hospitals.

“It is always useful to evaluate one’s performance and we are very pleased to be able to congratulate the physicians and nurses, managers and partners involved in this program for their continued excellence,” Mike Mazza, CEO of the MHA says.

The Hip & Knee program also continues to show Wait Times below the provincial target rate of 182 days. For hip replacement surgery, for example, the figures for Oct-Dec, 2008 indicated a wait time of 117 days at SMGH compared to the provincial actual of 174 days. For knee replacement

surgery, the figures for Oct-Dec, 2008 indicated a wait time of 103 days at SMGH compared to the provincial actual of 198, with a target of 182.

The MHA Hip & Knee program has also been praised for patient satisfaction. For instance, the first 150 hip and knee patients were interviewed at two and then at six weeks after their surgeries. They were questioned about pain, mobility and overall satisfaction with the experience. More than 90 per cent of patients reported an "excellent" experience. The success of the MHA Hip & Knee Program relies on a team approach: the MHA physiotherapy and nursing staff, along with external partners prepare patients pre-operatively.

"Eighty-seven per cent of our Hip & Knee patients meet discharge expectations, which generally means they return home after a shorter than average hospital stay, with pain managed and on target with their mobility," Nancy Maltby-Webster, COO at MHA says, "We are extremely proud of this program and everyone involved in its success."

"The program continues to thrive at MHA," says Dr. Paul Ferner. "And, although Dr. Samer Hanna is departing, we have a new surgeon starting in July who will join the orthopaedic team, along with Dr. Catherine Blokker and Dr. Ralph Pototschnik."

That surgeon, Dr. Vaishnav Rajgopal, MD, FRCSC received his medical degree from, and did his residency with, The University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, where he is completing a fellowship specializing in hip and knee replacement.