



ROSS MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL
Kawartha Lakes

Ross Memorial Hospital's report to the community *It's Your Hospital*

Care at RMH is 'Better Together'

Among the Ross Memorial's strategic directions is to ensure we are providing Patient and Family Inspired Care. What does that mean? Here at the Ross, it means that families play a vital role in the health and well-being of patients of all ages. Families are more than visitors. They are partners in care.

Patients define their own family, and are encouraged to choose those who will be 'support people' or care partners, during their time in hospital. Thanks to the relaxed visiting hours at the Ross, support people are welcome around the clock, at the patient's request, and provided their presence is pre-arranged with the patient's nurse and agreeable to other patients in the room.

It's important for these care partners to communicate with the patients' healthcare team at the Ross, and to share how they want to be involved. Care partners are invited to participate in ways that are comfortable, whether simply by their presence, or by participating in care and helping to make decisions.

To help patients and their care partners have these important discussions with the healthcare team, the Ross Memorial has created a 'Better Together' Guide for Working Together. This guide encourages questions, conversations – even conflict resolution.

At Ross Memorial Hospital, we aspire to create the ideal patient experience. Doing this well takes teamwork. We invite you and your family to work closely with us to provide the best possible care.

Medical Assistance in Dying

Ross Memorial Hospital is prepared to accommodate patients' wishes for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) in accordance with legislative, ethical and professional obligations.

Medical Assistance in Dying is a medical treatment that could potentially be provided in any area of the hospital or in a person's home. It is not the same as palliative care, which focuses on the control of pain and suffering in a patient with a life threatening illness, maximizing quality of life leading to a natural death.

RMH has a MAID Steering Committee, which has studied the legislation and directions from the professional colleges, and has prepared policy and procedure guidelines, as well as information for patients and their families.

Understandably, the Hospital's policy involves many steps to ensure a patient is eligible to receive the service and capable of understanding the implications. It includes safeguards to protect the patient and those involved in providing the service.

Information that RMH has prepared for patients and their families emphasizes that people who choose to have a medically assisted death may change their minds at any point. It also provides a list of questions to consider and recommendations including discussions with legal counsel and insurance representatives.

The RMH Steering Committee is pleased to work with all community healthcare partners in an attempt to ensure that local patients' wishes are respected and they receive coordinated care wherever they choose to receive Medical Assistance in Dying. This area of treatment will continue to evolve as further direction and guidance is provided from provincial bodies, including the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Anyone with questions about this service is encouraged to speak to his or her physician or nurse practitioner, or contact **Kim Stephens-Woods**, RMH Interim Vice President Patient Care at **705-328-6074** or **kwoods@rmh.org**.



Thanks to you, we're almost there.

Donor support for the 'Moments that Matter' spring appeal has helped us to raise \$82,411 for the purchase of new life-saving defibrillators. At Ross Memorial Hospital, we have defibrillator machines on 'crash carts' located throughout patient care units. They are positioned to be available instantly – in a moment's notice.

The Foundation is hoping to raise \$92,500 to purchase five new defibrillators. Ministry funding does not cover the cost to replace medical equipment, and each defibrillator costs \$18,500. That's why your help is so important. Your gift to the Foundation can help us to ensure this life-saving technology is ready during those moments that matter.

You can help save a life.

Please consider making a donation to the 'Moments that Matter' appeal, and help us reach this important fundraising goal.

Visit rmh.org/foundation or call the Foundation office at 705-328-6146 for more information, and make this moment matter.

