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## NEON expands northern partnerships

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By:

The Northeastern Ontario Network (NEON) further expanded its northern partnerships when the MICs Group of Health Services became the eleventh health care organization to join the Network, bringing the number of northern hospitals in the Network to thirteen, said a news release.

The MICs Group is a partnership between three hospitals and their associated long-term care facilities - Bingham Memorial Hospital in Matheson, Anson General in Iroquois Falls, and Lady Minto Hospital in Cochrane.

According to MICs Group CEO Dan O'Mara, "Providing the highest quality patient care across the vast expanses of northeastern Ontario can be a challenge. Membership in the NEON group will improve patient care and efficiency by allowing our hospitals to link with others in northeastern Ontario to share patient information on a real-time basis. The NEON project has a proven track record and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the group."

NEON began in 1999 as a partnership between seven northeastern Ontario hospitals that voluntarily participated in the development and implementation of a new Hospital Information System and related technologies. It quickly expanded to include a shared information system that would provide clinicians and staff with an electronic patient record showing relevant patient data from all NEON sites, resulting in better patient care, less duplication of diagnostic testing and faster access to clinical information.

"NEON stands as a testament to the northern ethos of cooperation and ingenuity. Its success in allowing northern hospitals to seamlessly share patient information ultimately improves our ability to deliver quality healthcare throughout the North," said Gaston Roy, Sudbury Regional Hospital chief information officer, in a news release. "As a cost effective system that helps eliminate geographical barriers, NEON has seen increased demand for the system and enjoyed national recognition."

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The NEON consortium includes the Sudbury Regional Hospital, Chapleau Health Services, Englehart and District Hospital, Kirkland and District Hospital, Northeast Mental Health Centre, Smooth Rock Falls Hospital, Temiskaming Hospital, Timmins and District Hospital, Lady Dunn Health Centre in Wawa, and the St. Joseph General Hospital in Elliot Lake.



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