

“Mind the Gap”

Addressing Phlebotomy in Rural Ontario: A Case Study in Partnership,
Community Engagement and Grass Roots Initiative-Taking



Kawartha  North
Family Health Team

City of Kawartha Lakes
Family Health Team

 **LifeLabs**[®]
Medical Laboratory Services



The Legislation



Ontario Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, s. 5:

“specimen collection centre” means a place where specimens are taken or collected from the human body for examination to obtain information for diagnosis, prophylaxis or treatment, but does not include,

- (a) a place where a legally qualified medical practitioner is engaged in the practice of medicine or surgery,
- (b) a place where a registered nurse who holds an extended certificate of registration under the *Nursing Act, 1991* is engaged in the practice of nursing...
- (c) a laboratory that is established, operated or maintained under a licence under this Act...

The Problem(s):

A Tale of Three Rural Centres

- loss of family physicians
- withdrawal of private labs - profitability
- travel for care
- expense for seniors, workers
- line-ups at licenced labs
- freeze on lab licences



The Delegation





The Solution



New interpretation of s.5 of the *Ontario Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act*:

Any FHT patients may be seen by a FHT-paid phlebotomists, regardless of whose patient they are or if their doctor/nurse is on site.



Still...

- only FHT patients
- funding - only from FHT existing budget(s)
- new licenced lab?



On the numbers...

- 8,045 patient visits
- Average age: 65-66
- Male: 54%
- Female: 46%



* less line-ups at licenced labs for FHT and non-FHT patients in Lindsay

On the FHT budget...



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\$62,600 - since September 2012

(plus in-kind)

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The Future?

- sustainability
- regularized funding
- public/private delivery

