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PASSION

OUR VISION: OUTSTANDING CARE - NO EXCEPTIONS!

OUR MISSION: PROVIDE QUALITY PERSON-CENTRED HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Media Release

July 7, 2025

For Immediate Release

WRH GETTING SET TO LAUNCH AUTOLOGOUS STEM CELL TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

WINDSOR, ON. _ Windsor Regional Hospital is embarking on a new venture with the launch of the Autologous Stem Cell Transplant (ASCT) program, a service previously unavailable locally.

The initial roll out will start with autologous stem cell transplants specifically for patients with multiple myeloma. Autologous, or auto stem cell transplants, are when a patient's own stem cells are collected and then reinfused back into their body following intensive chemotherapy or radiation. This is a major step forward in offering comprehensive transplant services right here in Windsor-Essex. Prior to this, patients had to travel significant distances to access specialized centres outside the region, resulting in logistical challenges, increased stress for patients and families and potential disruptions to continuity of care.

"Stem cell transplantation is a complex and intensive process for both the patient receiving treatment and the health care team providing the care. We have been providing high-level autologous and allogeneic transplant care here for many years, but this is another major step forward in providing comprehensive care close to home," says Windsor Regional Cancer Centre Chief of Oncology Dr. Sindu Kanjeekal. "Now that we have developed the framework, equipment and expertise to do full autologous stem cell transplantation here in Windsor, it provides the opportunity to build and deliver other complex cellular therapies and immunotherapies right here in our community. We are grateful for the trust and support of our community as we continuously strive to evolve."

"Windsor Regional Hospital is proud to expand its clinical footprint with this new program that will benefit patients now and into the future," said Karen Riddell, WRH Acting President and CEO and Chief Nursing Executive. "Thank you to Ontario Health, the provincial government

and the Windsor Cancer Centre Foundation for supporting us with funding to make this innovative program a reality.”

“Our new Stem Cell Transplant program is a significant milestone for our community, bringing lifesaving care closer to home and allowing families to stay together during treatment. This achievement reflects the compassion and generosity that define our region. It would not have been possible without the generous support of our community,” said Houida Kassem, Executive Director, Windsor Cancer Centre Foundation.

With a mission of providing high-quality, patient-centered care, WRH has recognized the need to expand its services to include stem cell transplant services, a vital component in the treatment of hematologic malignancies. Our first patient collection is scheduled for July 8th, 2025 marking a significant milestone in local cancer care. With a goal of completing 30 patients per year, this strategic investment not only enhances patient outcomes and satisfaction, but also solidifies WRH’s position as a leading provider of comprehensive oncology services in the region.

“Access to advanced cancer care close to home is essential—not just for better outcomes, but for the emotional well-being of patients and their families,” said Andrew Dowie, MPP for Windsor–Tecumseh. “The launch of the Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Program at Windsor Regional Hospital is a major step forward, ensuring Windsor-Essex patients can receive the specialized care they need right here in our community.”

“Congratulations to Windsor Regional Hospital on the launch of the Autologous Stem Cell Transplant (ASCT) program,” said Essex MPP Anthony Leardi. “We’ll continue working with the great people at Windsor Regional to bring more health care options to our region.”

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