

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New clinic offers shorter wait times and faster care for hip and knee arthritis patients**

**Mississauga, ON (March 27, 2019)** – Patients living with hip and knee arthritis experience shorter wait times for consultation and treatment thanks to a partnership between the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), Halton Healthcare and Trillium Health Partners (THP).

Through this partnership, the Hip and Knee Central Intake and Rapid Access Clinic model was launched in November 2018. This model is being rolled out across Ontario to help patients access the right care faster and make the health care system easier to navigate.

Since opening, the THP Hip and Knee Rapid Access Clinic has helped more than 150 patients with moderate to severe hip or knee arthritis access the right education and treatment options faster. After being referred to the Rapid Access Clinic by their primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner) through a centralized intake program, patients will be assessed by a specially-trained therapist called an Advance Practice Provider within four weeks.

During their assessment, patients will be provided with an individualized care plan that helps to avoid unnecessary appointments and procedures, including digital imaging. The care plan can include:

- Education and recommendations for non-surgical treatment, such as changes to physical activity and rehabilitation services, so they can confidently manage their care; and/or,
- A referral to a surgeon based on the patient's choice of preferred surgeon, hospital, or next available appointment.

Faster access to knee and hip arthritis treatment is becoming more important as the senior population in our community continues to grow. Last year, THP performed 489 hip replacements and 1,175 knee replacements.

In February 2019, this model expanded with the introduction of new hospital and community-based Rapid Access Clinics to support patients with low back pain.

More information about the Central Intake and Rapid Access Clinic model is available at [www.mississaugahaltonlhin.on.ca](http://www.mississaugahaltonlhin.on.ca).

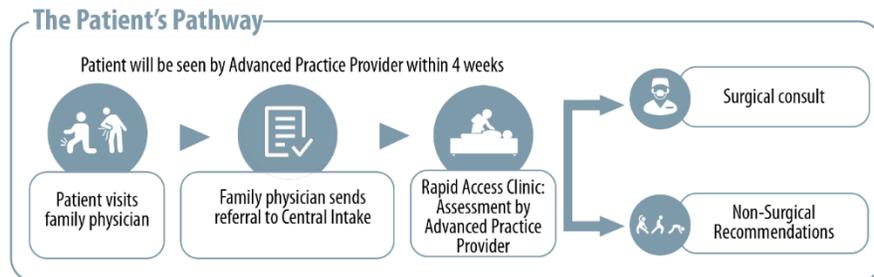
### **QUOTES**

“Speaking with my doctor about different treatment options led me to the Rapid Access Clinic and helped me get care faster. I had a positive experience and was fortunate to have surgery so quickly, which means I can heal in time to walk my daughter down the aisle this May.” — **Steven Gray, Patient, Trillium Health Partners Hip and Knee Rapid Access Clinic**

“Patients living with arthritis can be treated using a number of different strategies that include education, lifestyle changes, self-management tools, or surgery. The streamlined referral and assessment process offered by the Central Intake and Rapid Access Clinic can help people living with hip and knee arthritis receive care that best meets their needs in a timelier manner.” — **Dr. Nigel David Clements, orthopaedic surgeon and physician lead for the Hip and Knee Rapid Access Clinic at Trillium Health Partners**

## QUICK FACTS

- One in three adults live with musculoskeletal conditions, which are health conditions that affect muscles, bones or joints, and cause pain and mobility issues.
- Implementation of Hip and Knee Rapid Access Clinics across Ontario have shown a 27 per cent reduction in wait times and a 95 per cent patient satisfaction rate.
- All patient referrals to the Rapid Access Clinic will be required to come through the Central Intake.
- There are two Rapid Access Clinic locations in the Mississauga Halton LHIN – one located at Halton Healthcare (Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital) and one at Trillium Health Partners (Queensway Health Centre).
- Patients are referred by their family physician to one centralized referral fax number at 1-833-230-6623.
- The Patient’s Pathway can be illustrated in four steps:



- An Advanced Practice Provider is a regulated health professional (e.g. Physiotherapist or Chiropractor) with additional training in orthopaedic care. Advanced Practice Providers conduct standardized assessments and will refer patients for surgical consult or provide them with non-surgical management recommendations.
- Family physicians are an active member of the patient’s pathway and receive recommendations and results throughout the continuum of care

## About Trillium Health Partners

Trillium Health Partners is one of the largest community-based acute care facilities in Canada. Comprised of Credit Valley Hospital, the Mississauga Hospital and the Queensway Health Centre, Trillium Health Partners serves the growing and diverse populations of Mississauga, West Toronto and surrounding communities. Trillium Health Partners is a research and teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto Mississauga and the Mississauga Academy of Medicine. To learn more, visit: [www.trilliumhealthpartners.ca](http://www.trilliumhealthpartners.ca).

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact:

Lyndsay Carter  
Senior Communications Advisor  
Cell: 437-214-3402  
Email: [lyndsay.carter@thp.ca](mailto:lyndsay.carter@thp.ca)