



Marking the 20th Anniversary of Woodstock Hospital's Dialysis Unit

Celebrating two decades of impressive change and growth in the Dialysis Unit

Woodstock Hospital's Dialysis Unit opened in August of 1997. In the past twenty years, 188 patients have passed through the doors and 25 have received kidney transplants. The unit has continually adapted to meet the increased patient need in the community.

The unit started with four part-time registered nurses and could accommodate 20 patients. Two more part-time nurses were added eight months later and by 1998, the unit was full, so two dialysis unit assistants (DUA) came aboard. In April 2000, a sixth station (chair) was added because of increased patient need. Woodstock Hospital linked with the Southwest Ontario Telehealth Network in December 2002. In that year, an evening shift was added so six more patients could receive treatment closer to home.

Before moving and expanding in our new facility, the unit looked after 30 patients and over the years cared for 91 patients. Since the move, the unit has doubled in size with room to open 12 stations and accommodate 72 patients. Today, the unit has 36 patients with 9 open stations, 3 full-time nurses, 6 part-time nurses and 3 dialysis technicians. With the success of organ transplants and the encouragement of home hemodialysis, the unit is meeting its target capacity.

Woodstock Hospital's Dialysis Unit is a satellite unit out of the London Health Sciences Centre, allowing patients to be in their own community and still have full access to the entire renal team. The renal dietitian, pharmacist, social worker, nurse practitioner and nephrologist can be reached by phone or video conferencing on computers or tablets.

"When you look for success stories like transplants and quality of life, you have to view the unit itself as a success. We're here to tend to the needs of all our patients and provide what is, indeed, a lifeline. We are proud to have offered this service in Oxford County over the past two decades."

- Randy Hicks, Director of Dialysis

"It's so satisfying to know we give patients a much better quality of life. All surveys show patients are most happy with the fact the unit is close to home. Patients say the unit gives them a sense of camaraderie and comfort, as well as tending to their medical needs."

- Nancy Eaton, Hemodialysis RN

"Woodstock Hospital has become so familiar and the staff are like a second family. Over the years, the process has gotten so much better from the scheduling to the amenities and location. Dialysis is part of my routine. My quality of life is so much better with treatment close to home."

- Patricia Wouch, 20 year Dialysis Patient at Woodstock Hospital

About Woodstock Hospital

Built in November 2011, Woodstock Hospital is a 178 bed, full-service community hospital, providing primary care to a population of 55,000 and specialized care to nearly 110,000 within the County of Oxford. The new facility offers a wide range of health programs including Maternal Child, Women's Health, Specialized Surgical Services, Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health Services, Dialysis and Rehabilitation Programs, a Systemic Therapy Program and an MRI. Our full service facility works closely with our community partners to provide our patients with healthcare services, close to home.

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