

# Temiskaming Hospital

October 1, 2008

## Canadian Patient Safety Week – September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>

The Canadian Patient Safety Week is an annual event to keep the issue of patient safety at the forefront in Canada. This year's theme is Medication Reconciliation.

### ***Knowledge is the Best Medicine. Ask. Talk. Listen.***

- **Ask** your doctor, nurse or pharmacist questions about your medications. Write down questions before your appointment and take notes when meeting with healthcare providers;
- **Ask** for medication changes, discharge date and instructions to be sent to your family doctor if you have been hospitalized;
- **Talk** about previous treatments or surgeries, current prescriptions or any other health care concerns with your healthcare provider;
- **Talk** about your medications. Bring an up-to-date list of all of your medications, or bring them with you to your appointment;
- **Talk** about any other doctors or healthcare professionals you are receiving treatment from;
- **Talk** about any adverse reactions or allergies to previous medications;
- **Talk** to your pharmacist to ensure the medication you are being given is the one prescribed for your condition;
- **Talk** to your healthcare provider at the first sign of any discomfort or something that doesn't feel "quite right";
- **Listen** to your doctor or healthcare professional and if you do not understand what they are saying, tell them and ask them to provide clarification;
- **Listen** and keep a medical journal providing details about your treatment and care;
- Bring someone with you to **listen** for you. Family members or other care providers can ask important questions that could help in future decisions about your care.

Please drop by the Temiskaming Hospital cafeteria this week to visit our patient safety booth and enter your name in our draw to win a great prize!



#### Visiting Hours:

- 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for medical patients, surgical patients and Long-Term Care patients;
- 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for obstetrics patients;
- Visitors to the Special Care Unit (SCU) are restricted to immediate family and/or significant other(s).

*The information contained in this article was taken directly from the Canadian Patient Safety Institute website at [http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/uploadedFiles/CPSWBackgrounder\\_Sep2208\\_Final.pdf](http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/uploadedFiles/CPSWBackgrounder_Sep2208_Final.pdf).*