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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

***MHA Upgrades Nurse Call Systems***

**(Strathroy, ON) –** The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is in the process of replacing the nurse call systems at both the Four Counties Health Services and the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital sites.The nurse call installation is scheduled to start at SMGH immediately and is expected to be completed by March 6th. The FCHS installation will begin immediately after SMGH completion and will be substantially completed by March 31st.

Nurse call systems provide a critical communication link from patients to our caregivers. These systems are being replaced to improve patient safety and communication.

The project involves the replacement of an aged (1990’s) nurse call system on 1 South, ICU and 2 South at SMGH and all of the nurse call system at FCHS (1980’s). The systems are all at the end of life. The new systems will provide for improved communication between patient and nurse, and integrate with the technology in our new patient beds (rail position, tilt, bed exit alarms, etc.) for improved patient safety. The systems also provide improved visual indication (LED dome lights) and are scalable allowing for expansion and increased functionality in the future.

There will be minimal disruption for staff, patients and visitors alike. During installation the contractor (Gordon Ruth & Company Ltd.) will be present in the corridors and in patient rooms with typically two staff on site throughout. Visitors to the hospitals will see ceiling tiles removed (replaced daily) and step ladders in the area where the work is taking place.

“The nurse-call systems are being replaced to ensure patients continue to be attended to quickly and efficiently. Due to changes in current technology, the older nurse-call systems cannot simply be upgraded,” stated Todd Stepanuik, President & CEO.

We appreciate your patience and understanding throughout this transition.

About MHA:

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.

Providing core acute primary and secondary hospital care, the MHA has also been recognized for establishing two notable Centres of Achievement (Orthopaedics and Diabetes Education Centre) that generate local and regional referrals.

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