



For many years, the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) has been one of the remaining hospitals in Ontario licensed by the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care to operate Lab Collection Centres outside of our hospital facility. For approximately seven years, we have needed to contract with MDS to operate these collection centre services under our licensing agreement. As a result of two external reviews of STEGH and the requirement that the hospital balance its budget, we are no longer in a position to operate the Specimen Collection Centres located in Aylmer and Dutton, effective March 31, 2007.

STEGH will continue to provide outpatient specimen collection services at the hospital. MDS Laboratory Services also provides medical diagnostic laboratory testing services in St. Thomas. MDS Laboratories, CML HealthCare Inc. and Gamma-Dynacare Medical Laboratories have lab collection arrangements with some physicians' offices and other community service providers within the County.

STEGH must focus on our core on-site services to ensure that we have the resources we need to sustain those services for the community. We will continue to work with physicians and our community care partners on issues that surface regarding this change and provide as much help as we can throughout the transition phase.

We would like to thank MDS Laboratories for the strong collaborative relationship we have shared over the past several years and for their assistance in ensuring a smooth transition of service provision.

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