



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2010

Out-Patient Laboratory Changes at STEGH

St. Thomas, ON - Effective April 5, 2010 the new hours of operation for outpatient lab testing at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital will be as follows:

STEGH Outpatient Lab Hours	
Monday	7:30am - 10:30am
Tuesday	3:00pm - 6:00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	7:30am - 10:30am
Friday	3:00pm - 6:00pm
Saturday	7:30am – Noon
Sunday	Closed

Also effective April 5, STEGH will only process outpatient laboratory tests that can be completed within the hospital laboratory. STEGH will not process any outpatient laboratory tests that need to be referred to another laboratory to be completed. This change is in keeping with the practice at many Ontario hospitals.

“We continue to examine all hospital operations and compare them to operations at hospitals similar in size and scope to STEGH, to ensure we are using our valuable resources in the most effective and responsible manner,” explains Brenda Lambert, STEGH Vice President Patient Services.

STEGH is decreasing outpatient laboratory services to redirect its limited resources to ensure the continued provision of timely services for inpatient, emergency and registered hospital clinic patients in St. Thomas.

Most laboratory tests requested by community physicians are covered by OHIP (Ontario Health Insurance Plan), and can be performed at community laboratories. STEGH will be communicating with physicians in the community to ensure a smooth transition.

A community based lab in St. Thomas, **LifeLabs**, is located at 230 First Ave Unit 106 and is able to serve the community for routine specimen collections.

LifeLabs Outpatient Lab Hours	
Monday	7:30am – 4:00pm
Tuesday	7:30am – 4:00pm
Wednesday	7:30am – Noon
Thursday	7:30am – 4:00pm
Friday	7:30am – 4:00pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

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For more information contact:

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