

## GRAND ROUNDS

A new thrombosis clinic is now available to patients here in Renfrew under the expertise of RVH Internist, Dr. Shanti Nemani.

In the past, patients would have had to travel to The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of deep vein thrombosis (clots in the leg) and pulmonary embolus (clots in the lung). All referral requests will still be processed through TOH's Thrombosis Assessment and Treatment Unit, with the appropriate cases being sent to RVH or one of the other two hospitals in the outlying region.

The Unit is an urgent care clinic that investigates and provides necessary treatment to patients with suspected and confirmed cases of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolus. Consultations are also available to those who have tendencies to develop blood clots.

With TOH managing patient follow-up care and further consultation appointments, the system allows for the standardization of protocols, and ensures that the same level of expert care is provided to the patient in each facility.

"Our focus is providing care close to home for patients who would have had to travel for care from this clinic," says RVH Vice-President of Patient Care Services, Chris Ferguson.

As part of this partnership, one of our RNs, Erin Prentice, participated in special training from TOH to assist in the execution of this program, notes Ferguson. She has taken the lead in teaching her fellow nursing staff at RVH how to properly identify deep vein thrombosis conditions, along with the treatment practices and follow-up care of the patients being seen in this new clinic.

"We are able to build expertise within our own community as our RNs will play a pivotal role to the success of the initiative," she adds.

Dr. Nemani is very pleased to be able to introduce this service to the community, allowing him to provide the same level of treatment and quality care to patients afflicted with thrombosis. "More specifically, I'm looking forward to being able to help more patients without a family doctor."

Since this is an urgent care program, patients admitted to the emergency department in Renfrew or Ottawa and then diagnosed with thrombosis can be seen for follow-up care at the new RVH clinic. Eventually, the clinic will take on orphan patients in the area as well.

Sharing the high volume of patients that TOH's Thrombosis Assessment and

Treatment Unit previously experienced has many benefits, says Nemani. He is able to maintain a strong relationship with TOH specialists, along with easing their regular workload, he says.

"Knowing someone is available locally who can manage the treatment and provide the appropriate dosages is very helpful to them," Dr. Nemani comments.

Extra consultation services are provided to patients at RVH through the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN), via two-way videoconferencing between the patient and specialists at TOH.

"We are proud to offer this level of care to our patients and provide it in a comfortable, relaxing environment close to home," comments Prentice.

Josée Drolet, RN, Regional Thrombosis Program manager at The Ottawa Hospital, notes that the regional thrombosis telehealth program provides access to *world-class* health care from a specialized service not normally found in smaller communities. The ability to provide these services and facilitate access to breakthrough treatments closer to home is beneficial to the patient. Those who are not well enough to travel or who do not have access to resources will still receive efficient and thorough treatments, by means of a collaborative team approach between TOH and RVH.

"Our goal is to provide equal access to available services for all patients, the most convenient way possible!" says Drolet.



**RVH's new thrombosis clinic, led by Dr. Shanti Nemani, provides access to specialized care close to home.**