**General Internal Medicine (GIM) Consultation Service at Bridgepoint Hospital**

The Medical Consultation Service performs consultations for all of the inpatient Units at Bridgepoint Hospital. The aim of the consulting service is to provide access to Internal Medicine specialist care to prevent patients with complex, chronic conditions from entering or returning to an acute care facility. Additionally, the Service aims to optimize treatments for chronic medical problems, stabilize patients with uncontrolled conditions and allow for safer discharge planning.

While working with Dr. Reiss and Dr. Locke, the service also offers two half day clinics each week with outpatients:

* Thursday morning in the Bridgepoint Diabetes Clinic working in a collaborative setting with a nurse educator and dietitian. In this clinic new and returning patients with T1DM and T2DM are seen. GIM consults in this clinic from the Bridgepoint Family Health Team and seen at times as well.
* Wednesday morning a combined GIM and Endocrinology Clinic on the ground floor of the hospital. Once monthly there is a telemedicine (OTN) clinic for remote Ontario communities.

The inpatient consultations cover a wide variety of complex medical complaints including acute conditions such as CHF exacerbation, poorly controlled diabetes and acute renal failure; and chronic conditions such as diabetes insipidus, chronic renal failure/end stage renal disease and hypertension.

Inpatient consultations are provided five days a week for all Units. Between one and four new patients are reviewed each day and several more are followed up. The Service also follows several complex patients with co-morbidities during their entire stay at Bridgepoint. Initial consultation findings are dictated into the Meditech system with follow-up documentation typed in.

*“There is a new generation of expertise around, not based on supreme and supposedly stable individual knowledge and ability, but on the capacity of working communities to cross boundaries, negotiate and improvise „knots of collaboration‟ in meeting constantly changing challenges and in reshaping their own activities.” Yrjo Engeström*