



For Immediate Release

Bill Turner Announced as Facilitator for Patient Safety Forum in Medora, MB Institutes want to hear ideas and give MIPS Tips that can help people feel more empowered to speak up, know their rights, and take a more active role in making their healthcare safer

(September 24, 2012) The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS) announced today that CKLQ morning show host Bill Turner will serve as facilitator for its public forum on patient safety, co-hosted by the Manitoba Women's Institute Southwest B Region (MWI SWB). *Patient Safety: Let's Talk About It* will take place in Medora, MB on Thursday, October 11, 2012, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Patient Safety: Let's Talk About It will give Manitobans in the region the chance to share their experiences and thoughts on ways to make healthcare safer. The forum will focus on challenges people feel they sometimes face when they interact with doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and even other family members in healthcare situations. Possible solutions to these challenges will be discussed. The forum will also give people helpful MIPS tips to better prepare them for navigating the healthcare system.

"The goal of the Medora forum is to talk about some of the things that challenge and sometimes frustrate people in healthcare" said Laurie Thompson, MIPS executive director. "We want them to have their voices heard and leave the forum feeling more empowered as well as better informed about ways they can play a more active role in their own healthcare and be safe as patients."

Thompson said MIPS wants to bring the forum to as many regions as possible in the coming years to provide rural Manitobans the opportunity to have their voices heard closer to home.

Forum participants will break into small groups to discuss what they see as challenges and identify ideas for solutions on a number of patient safety topics. Discussion may include patient safety topics such as medication safety, communicating with healthcare providers, how to advocate for yourself or someone else, and knowing your rights as a patient. MIPS will provide all participants with some MIPS tips and resources on the topics.

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PREMIER MEMBERS

The patient safety forum will take place as part of the Manitoba Women's Institute Southwest B Region's fall seminar. The patient safety forum will be followed by a one hour discussion with Jennifer Wickham, Nurse Navigator, Western RHA describing her role and how this regional service helps patients and their families navigate the system through all phases of the cancer journey. This will be an opportunity to learn how patient navigation helps ensure timely access to a range of services and links patients and families to resources offered through CancerCare Manitoba, the Western Manitoba Cancer Centre, Community Cancer Programs and community supports.

MWI has a long history of achievement advocating for strong healthcare in rural Manitoba and recommending improvements that have benefited many rural families over the decades.

"We believe the topic of empowering Manitobans and giving us more information and confidence to speak up, advocate for ourselves and learn ways to help keep ourselves safer in healthcare settings is very beneficial," said Fran Dickinson, Manitoba Women's Institute's Southwest B president. "We should be talking more about this important subject in our communities, especially with our population of aging rural Manitobans."

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS) promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of health care for Manitobans.

Manitoba Women's Institute is a non-partisan, non-sectarian provincial rural women's organization dedicated to personal development, family, agriculture, rural development and community action - locally and globally under the motto "For Home and For Country." Southwest B Region covers communities like Melita, Deloraine, Boissevain, Reston, Souris and Killarney.

The forum is free of charge. For local event information call Fran Dickinson (204-673-2468) or Audrey Clark (204-649-2258). You can also get more information on the forum by calling 1-866-927-6477 or check Future Events in the Events section at www.mbips.ca

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