

# West Park Hospital develops kit to help fight polio

**F**or nearly 40 years, it lay forgotten. It was a disease long thought eradicated, but polio or poliomyelitis is among us still.

In North America, the widespread use of polio vaccines since 1955 led to a dramatic reduction of the incidence of disease. But now, an estimated 60,000 Canadians are at risk of developing what is known as the late effects of polio.

West Park Hospital's Post Polio Clinic is the only one of its kind in Ontario. With the development of a new comprehensive training kit, the clinic is making its expertise available to health professionals from various disciplines throughout the province and across the country.

of physiatry, social work, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Also included are slides, photos, charts, group therapy guides and exercise programs. Kits are priced at

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country from areas where inoculation has not been available.

"We're seeing a large number of people who have gone from place to place looking for answers and who have not been able to find them in health care," Malisani says. "West Park's new educational tools will give health care professionals the resources they need to become knowledgeable, qualified caregivers to post polio clients."

For more information regarding the late effects of polio or the education training kit, please call or write: Wendy Malisani, Coordinator, Post Polio Clinic, West Park Hospital, 82 Buttonwood Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6M 2J5 416-243-3600 ext. 2157.



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