



Interlake–Eastern Regional Health Authority

Community Update - July 2017

Improving coordination of care for Manitobans

In order to build a more sustainable health care system we have to challenge the status quo. As a string of recent provincial announcements would indicate, some of those changes for improved health care sustainability are starting to materialize. The Province recently announced the creation of a new provincial health organization called Shared Health Services Manitoba and proposed changes to our provincial EMS system following recommendations from a recent review. Winnipeg RHA has identified widespread changes to health care service delivery. These changes reflect our mutually held mandate to ensure the sustainable delivery of health services to our residents.

What is Shared Health Services Manitoba and how will it work with Interlake-Eastern RHA?

Shared Health Services Manitoba will centralize clinical and business services for regional health authorities. At this point, it is not clear how these services will integrate and it will take time for all details to be made available. Shared Health Services Manitoba will partner with the RHAs, Cancer Care Manitoba and Addictions Foundation of Manitoba to integrate better health care in Manitoba.

When announcing the creation of this new health organization, the Province acknowledged that rural Manitobans do not receive the full spectrum of health care services from providers located in their local community or RHA – something we have known for a long time and have been working to address. Many of the programs that service patients across our region are administered and delivered by the WRHA which results in patients travelling to Winnipeg for specialty services or programs developed in Winnipeg. This shows how intricately connected the various components of Manitoba's health system are, even though many areas do not operate collectively, which results in a fragmented system with the potential of patient service inequality. Shared Health Services' detailed plans and updates will unfold over the upcoming months.

This past March, all RHAs submitted to the Province our proposed plans to contribute to improved health care sustainability. At this point in time, Winnipeg RHA has been moving forward with its plans. We also know that the Province is taking time to thoroughly examine the proposed regional changes to ensure that, collectively, our planning will benefit Manitobans before we receive approval to proceed.

Changes to EMS service delivery in our region

The Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living recently confirmed the Province's intent to move forward with recommendations from the [2013 EMS System Review](#). Implementation of these changes will take place over the next seven to ten year period in consultation with the regional health authorities who will advise what will work best in our regions to meet our residents' needs. A bright outcome of this announcement is the Province's funding of eight new EMS positions in Interlake-Eastern RHA so that we are better positioned to meet the provincial EMS response time standard of not more than 30 minutes for 90 per cent of the population, 90 per cent of the time.

Physician recruitment efforts pay off regionally 17 new practitioners starting soon!

Over the next six months, our region will benefit from 17 new practitioners starting in our region. Specifically, the communities of Stonewall, Eriksdale, Ashern, Arborg, Beausejour and Pine Falls we're expecting eight physicians and one new nurse practitioner to start practice later this summer. These care providers will take patients who don't have a primary care provider and the physicians will provide coverage in hospital. Later this

fall and into winter, we anticipate seven new physicians and one nurse practitioner joining family practices in Selkirk, Teulon and Gimli.

As these physicians and nurse practitioners start their practice, look for introductions to the community in your local paper.

Our region's physician recruitment team works with medical students and residents to enhance their interest to practice rurally. Their hard work wouldn't be possible without the support of our local physicians and communities who contribute their time and dedicate funding to help us create memorable experiences for medical students and residents. By way of example, we had 14 second year medical students with us for Rural Week that is designed to expose students to work and lifestyle opportunities that rural practice offers. In addition, we have 15 medical students with us for Home for the Summer this year. This program brings students who may have grown up in the region, whose families live in the region or who have some other strong connection to the area, into the region in paid summer employment positions. They also make connections to the area and staff that keep them close to the region which is valuable when the time comes to choose where they want to work. A number of the new physicians that we've recruited to our region are Canadian graduates which shows our recruitment efforts are paying off. We're already anticipating eight new physicians joining us next summer.

Clinical Teaching Unit Community Task Force

Interlake-Eastern along with community partners, the University of Manitoba, Office of Rural and Northern Health and representatives of Manitoba Health is pursuing the creation of a clinical teaching unit in conjunction with our new regional health centre in Selkirk. As part of training, students would travel out to facilities all over the region to deliver care under the guidance of partnering doctors in the region.

Work continues on the creation of a regional clinical teaching unit. Last month, our Clinical Teaching Unit Community Task Force, composed of representatives from Interlake-Eastern RHA, local physicians, town and RM representatives, had their first meeting to begin identifying how they can secure the necessary community financial contributions for a regionally integrated primary care centre and clinical teaching unit to be located in Selkirk. The task force will serve as an advisory body to Interlake-Eastern RHA's senior leadership and board of directors.

I look forward to providing you with more information as it arises.

Thank you,



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This community update is provided to elected leaders within Interlake-Eastern RHA as a means of information sharing. Please share this information publicly.

Did you know that our emergency department schedules are now online?

Physician availability in our emergency departments is now posted online. Please encourage your residents to visit this page: <https://is.gd/EDschedules>. People can also call our toll-free line for ED status: 1-866-267-5818.

Does your community use social media? Follow us! Share our posts!



Facebook: [Interlake-Eastern Health](#)

Twitter: [Interlake-Eastern RHA](#)

We're always grateful to our community partners who post, share and retweet Interlake-Eastern RHA's programs, events and health messages to their followers. Together, we can use social media as another way

to keep your residents informed with health information. Looking for a graphic for your social media posts?
Contact Lita Savage-Murray at lhniatiuk@ierha.ca.
