



Regional Health Authority
Central Manitoba Inc.
Office régional de la santé
du Centre du Manitoba inc.

MacGregor Health Centre Evolves to a Physician Assistant model of care

What it means to you and your family

The RHA Central is introducing important changes to the MacGregor Health Centre/Clinic to ensure access to the most appropriate care in the most appropriate settings.

Further to community consultations, a Physician Assistant (PA) model will soon be implemented in MacGregor and health centre staff look forward to extending a warm welcome to the newest member of the local health care team.

What is a Physician Assistant (PA)?

A PA is an academically prepared and highly skilled health care professional, educated in the medical model that practices medicine under the supervision of a physician within a patient-centered health care team.

Under the off-site supervision of a physician from the Portage Clinic, the PA will take medical histories, perform physical exams, order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests, perform selected diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, prescribe medications, and provide patient education and counseling in the community clinic located in the MacGregor Health Centre. As well, the PA will provide services to the clients/residents of the MacGregor Health Centre.

The PA will be an integral member of the multidisciplinary team providing safe and quality health care services in the community of MacGregor and area. PA's currently work across Manitoba's health care system, such as in primary care, acute care, and emergency rooms.

When will the new model be implemented?

The PA will soon begin orientation to the region, MacGregor and Portage medical practices after which appointments will commence at the MacGregor Clinic in October 2011.

How will this affect residents living in the MacGregor Health Centre?

Supported by the nursing staff, the PA will care for all long-term care residents at the MacGregor Health Centre, monitoring their overall health status,

performing physical exams, conducting regular medication reviews and addressing any health care issues or concerns.

Will I be able to get my regular physical done in MacGregor? And what about blood tests?

The answer to both questions is: yes, same as previously. Routine and insurance medicals and ordering blood work tests are all within the PA's scope of practice. As required, blood work will be done in MacGregor and the PA will receive/interpret results.

If I need a medication ordered or the dose adjusted, can the PA do this?

Yes, the PA can prescribe and review medications within an approved designated list of medications.

What else can I expect from a PA model of care?

PAs have the authority to order diagnostic and screening tests and manage the results. They can also perform minor surgical procedures as outlined in their scope of practice. They can provide health care advice, perform full health assessment, and diagnose/treat health concerns/issues across the age spectrum (children, adults, seniors).

Clients with fractures (broken bones) would continue to seek care in an Emergency Department as they do currently. Major surgeries continue to be directed to centres with operating rooms.

The care that patients have generally received in the MacGregor Clinic will continue to be provided at the MacGregor Clinic. Once the PA is in place, regular clinic hours will be established.

Find out more

For more information about PAs, visit:
www.caopa.net.

If you have further questions or feedback, please contact:

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