

June 29, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday, Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living, announced the formation of a new provincial health organization, called Shared Health Services Manitoba, which will provide coordinated planning, standard setting and governance for the province's health care system.

This new organization will formally come into effect on April 1, 2018 and I am humbled to have been asked to lead this new organization with the assistance of an experienced and dedicated team of professionals from across the province.

Manitoba is privileged to have skilled and compassionate staff across the system but our ability to deliver coordinated services across the province has been challenged by the lack of alignment within our system and by the absence of a provincial clinical and preventive services plan.

Our eight major independent health organizations each plan and deliver services in relative isolation of one another, impeding our ability to improve access to quality health care and our ability to manage costs.

The development of a provincial clinical and preventive services plan will help inform not only how we should organize Manitoba's health services, but will also enable effective health human resource planning, capital equipment investments, construction planning and other initiatives and support functions that should be coordinated province wide.

Over the summer, we will be announcing provincial clinical leaders in the various specialties, including primary care. These leaders will bring together specialty colleagues from the five RHAs and CancerCare Manitoba in the fall 2017 to form provincial clinical specialty teams. These teams will:

- **Develop provincial models of care for each specialty that improve access to quality care, more fully utilize every providers' scope of practice, and which are sustainable;**
- **Identify standards relevant to each specialty that should be consistent across the province; and**
- **Support RHAs in their efforts to recruit and retain the appropriate health care providers necessary to support the identified models of care.**

Under the leadership of Lanette Siragusa, and with the support of Dr. Shaun Gauthier and Dr. Perry Gray, the various models of care developed will be woven into a provincial clinical and preventive services plan. As the health care needs of Manitobans change over time and as we adapt to new advances in medicine, this plan will be updated. In developing this plan, we will be building upon work that has already begun - and with which many of you are already familiar - via the previously released report authored by Dr. David Peachey.

The resulting provincial clinical and preventive services plan will be reviewed and endorsed by a “Manitoba Clinical Leadership Council” led by Dr. Denis Fortier. This Council will include the Chief Medical Officers from each of the RHAs as well as nursing and allied health representatives. This Council will replace the former provincial medical leadership council.

Shared Health Services Manitoba will also be responsible for managing those clinical and non-clinical services that make sense to be provincially coordinated - such as laboratory services (already centrally managed under Diagnostic Services Manitoba), diagnostic imaging, emergency medical services (ambulance and paramedic services) and transport, e-Health, logistics and procurement. The delivery of all other services will remain under the auspices of the RHAs and CancerCare Manitoba.

Over the years, the WRHA has done an excellent job of developing expertise in a number of areas. By shifting some of these functions - such as certain legal services, and medical staff administrative services - to Shared Health Services Manitoba, this expertise will begin to be made available to support all regions.

Also included within this new organization will be the Health Sciences Centre, including Children’s Hospital. Long considered “Manitoba’s hospital” the inclusion of HSC will provide new opportunities for better integration of HSC services with those provided by other RHAs.

DSM has done an exemplary job of leading and managing laboratory services in Manitoba, and diagnostic imaging services outside of Winnipeg and Brandon. As we look to manage other clinical and non-clinical services provincially, DSM will evolve into an area within the new provincial health organization, with its corporate shell becoming the framework for Shared Health Services Manitoba.

By working together provincially to better plan and manage health care services, we will be looking for ways to provide care in a more cost-effective manner both in order to ensure the sustainability of health care over the long term but also to allow for future investment as needs and technologies change.

Shared Health Services Manitoba will partner with the RHAs, CancerCare Manitoba, and Addictions Foundation Manitoba to build a better health system for Manitobans. The alignment of health care services to better meet the needs of Manitobans and to make our health care system better and more affordable necessarily involves much change. And of course there will be questions. Over the coming weeks and months as we progress with the detailed planning of this transformation, we will share information with you and establish ways for you to share your ideas or to ask questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brock Wright  
President and CEO, Shared Health Services Manitoba