

Temporary Disruption of Services - Leader Hospital

As you are aware, a plan has been developed to consistently have a 'temporary disruption of services' for the Leader Hospital once every three weeks. These planned disruptions have been scheduled to assist with the retention of physicians, and to provide advance notice to the public when disruptions will occur and what services will be, and will not be, available. Understandably, there are a number of concerns that have been identified – we have tried to address these concerns below.

Dates of Service Disruptions
July 2 at 8:00 AM to July 10 at 6:00 PM
July 29 at 8:00 AM to July 31 at 5:00 PM
August 17 at 8:00 AM to August 21 at 5:00 PM
Updated July 21, 2009

The health region and Leader's health care team appreciate your understanding and patience during these temporary disruptions. Along with everyone else, we hope that these measures are short-lived and that a third

QUESTION: *Is this service disruption a first step towards the closure of the Leader Hospital?*

Answer: No it is not. This temporary plan is simply meant to address the current shortage of one physician at the Leader Medical Clinic – currently there are only two physicians (Dr. Djan and Dr. Cybula) and a Nurse Practitioner (Mikki Millar) at the clinic, although there should be one additional physician available to reach the Clinic's full roster and provide uninterrupted on-call services. As well, the scheduled disruptions are intended to provide some consistency in planning for the times when on-call physician services are not available, until the third physician is successfully recruited to the community.

As has been previously talked about at public meetings, the retention of our health professionals is as important as the recruitment of them. This temporary measure is intended to help with keeping our physicians from getting burned out with assuming more on-call responsibilities than they are supposed to be handling.

The health region has recently had discussions with the Council members from the Town of Leader and the provincial Ministry of Health about initiating a planning process for an integrated health facility in the community of Leader. Such a project would see a variety of existing health services provided under one roof – acute care, long term care, home care, community health services, physician services, primary health care, and emergency medical services. The health region has received the green light from the Ministry to begin these discussions to see if such a project would be viable.

QUESTION: *Does this temporary plan mean that jobs are going to be cut?*

Answer: No it does not. Staff will not lose any hours of work or pay due to this temporary measure. Some hospital staff may be temporarily re-deployed to other duties (ex. instead of working at hospital during night shift, they may be scheduled to work at the Western Senior Citizens Home and assist the existing staff in providing long term care services) but they will not see their hours of work or pay reduced.

QUESTION: *What services are affected during the days when this disruption of services is in effect?*

Answer: During the identified days, there will be no emergency outpatient services or acute admissions available, and there will be no physician on-call services available. Regular lab and x-ray services will be available as per normal, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

QUESTION: *What do I do in the event of an emergency?*

Answer: Residents are always encouraged to call 9-1-1 when faced with a medical emergency, as that is the quickest way to have an ambulance and its team of qualified emergency staff dispatched to help you. During this temporary measure, Leader's EMS crews have been scheduled to be more readily able to respond to 9-1-1 calls much quicker, which means that an ambulance will be on its way immediately when notified.

QUESTION: *What happens to inpatients in the hospital?*

Answer: During days when the disruption is in effect, inpatients cannot be in the facility due to the fact that there is no physician available for on-call. On days when a disruption is not in effect, the facility will be able to admit patients but as a disruption day comes near, the team of health providers (physician, nurse, home care, etc.) will plan for the ongoing care of that patient – discharge, transfer to home care services, transfer to another acute facility, etc.

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QUESTION: Without physician services available, who will look after the residents at the Western Senior Citizens Home?

Answer: The residents will continue to be cared for by the existing staff, who will have access to physician consultation and support when required.

QUESTION: If I have to be transferred by ambulance to another facility during days when the disruption is in effect, where will I be sent?

Answer: The health provider team, inclusive of the EMS staff, will assess the specific health needs of each client and will determine the most appropriate facility for that client to be transferred to.

QUESTION: Does this mean that Leader will only have two doctors in the future ... is recruitment for a third physician still happening?

Answer: A full complement of three physicians and a nurse practitioner is the goal for the primary health care site in Leader. The health region and local recruiting committee have been trying hard to recruit a third physician for many months. However, all of the efforts to date have been unsuccessful. Active recruitment for a third physician is ongoing and it is everyone's wish to have a success story sooner versus later.

Even while the temporary situation is in place, efforts are being made to secure locum (temporary) physicians to help reduce the number of days that the disruptions will be in effect. If we are successful in finding locum assistance to provide on-call coverage for a weekend or other days, we will be updating the calendar on the health region and Town of Leader websites.

While these interruptions are not desirable, residents of the community should be aware that the physicians are certainly fulfilling their contractual obligations, and we appreciate their efforts in doing so.



SERVICE DISRUPTION = * No Emergency Outpatient Services
* No Acute Admissions * No Physician On-Call Services

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
JULY	Leader Hospital			1 STAT HOLIDAY	2 Service Disruption Starting at 8:00 AM	3 Service Disruption	4 Service Disruption	
	5 Service Disruption	6 Service Disruption	7 Service Disruption	8 Service Disruption	9 Service Disruption	10 Service Disruption to 6:00 PM	11 This calendar is subject to change at short notice	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	26	27	28	29 Service Disruption Starting at 8:00 AM	30 Service Disruption	31 Service Disruption to 5:00 PM	Lab & X-ray Services Available Monday to Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	
AUGUST	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	Leader Hospital					Lab & X-ray Services Available Monday to Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM		1
	2	3 STAT HOLIDAY	4	5	6	7	8	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	16	17 Service Disruption Starting at 8:00 AM	18 Service Disruption	19 Service Disruption	20 Service Disruption	21 Service Disruption to 5:00 PM	22 This calendar is subject to change at short notice	
	23	30	24	31	25	26	27	28

If you have a medical emergency and require an ambulance call:
9-1-1

Please watch for calendar updates on the Cypress Health Region website (www.cypresshealth.ca) or The Town of Leader website (www.leader.ca)
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