



Government of Yukon

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Yukon Medical Association

FOR RELEASE #11-119
August 5, 2011



New partnership offers more choices to women for prenatal care

WHITEHORSE—A new partnership between Health and Social Services and the Yukon Medical Association (YMA) is expected to improve obstetrics care for Yukon women.

Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart said today that a new obstetrical clinic is scheduled to open in the Thomson Centre by the end of September.

"We have been working collaboratively with both the physicians and the hospital to create this new option for Yukon women who are giving birth," Hart said. "This new model means women will have improved access to prenatal care, especially for women without family doctors or for women whose family doctors do not specialize in obstetrics. This is very good news for Yukon women."

The government will cover the cost of the clinic, as well as payment for physicians through regular fee for services.

YMA president Dr. Rao Tadepalli said the association is very supportive of the new clinic.

"This is a model seen in other jurisdictions, where pregnant women can self-refer to an obstetrics clinic or be referred by their family physician for the duration of the pregnancy. We are very excited by this step forward and believe it will better serve Yukon women and their babies. As well, this model will coexist with family physicians doing clinic-based obstetric care," Tadepalli said.

The clinic will be overseen by the YMA's lead physician on the project, Dr. Deb Lisoway. It will operate five days a week with five to six physicians on a rotating schedule. Renovations are expected to begin in early September.

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