



FOR RELEASE
October 2, 2014

New health clinics offer patients collaborative care and drop-in evening hours

WHITEHORSE—Patients can now visit one of two new clinics—the Yukon Sexual Health Clinic, or the Yukon Women’s MidLife Health Clinic—for sexual, reproductive or menopause health concerns.

“Opening the doors at these clinics is another way the Yukon government is delivering on our commitment to improve Yukoners’ access to medical professionals,” Minister of Health and Social Services Doug Graham said. “Although collaborative care models exist in Yukon, these clinics are the first to have a nurse practitioner working together with physicians in a private clinic setting.”

Hosted at the Whitehorse Medical Clinic and the Pine Medical Centre, these clinics have a nurse practitioner as their primary care provider who will work collaboratively and consult with physicians and a variety of other health care professionals.

The Yukon Sexual Health Clinic offers sexual and reproductive health services to Yukoners.

“Our nurse practitioner will help patients access low-cost birth control and supplies, reproductive counselling, and offer various tests, treatments or referrals as needed,” Yukon Sexual Health Clinic’s Dr. Stephanie Buchanan said. “We look forward to offering this needed service, particularly to youth who may want to see someone after regular hours.”

The Yukon Women’s MidLife Health Clinic offers health care and support to women who are approaching, experiencing, or are beyond menopause.

“We look forward to helping patients without family doctors lead healthier lives,” Yukon Women’s MidLife Health Clinic founder Dr. Xiu-Mei Zhang said. “Our clinic will help women manage perimenopause and menopause symptoms, or identify related risks concerning heart, bone and overall health.”

Patients without family doctors are encouraged to visit the clinics and those who have been referred by their family doctors and other health professionals will also be accepted.

Both clinics are open two days a week for daytime appointments and one evening a week on a drop-in basis.

“Offering evening drop-in hours with a nurse practitioner is a positive change to our present health care model,” Graham added. “We hope to see Yukon’s collaborative care model flourish, where the right professionals work together to meet patients’ health care needs.”

Under the Collaborative Care Initiative, both clinics will be funded for three years. A volunteer steering committee including the Women’s Directorate, the Yukon Council on the Status of Women, Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre, Les EssentiElles Association, Health and Social Services officials as well as other individuals, supports the projects.

In 2012, Yukon passed legislation to enable licensing of nurse practitioners, among other Yukon health care providers. Nurse practitioners are experienced registered nurses who have additional graduate education. They are licensed to work independently and can prescribe medication, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and perform specific procedures.

Learn more: New health clinics

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News Release #14-220



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