



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon MS patients can apply to participate in U.S. liberation treatment clinical trials

WHITEHORSE—Yukon residents diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) are being invited to apply for spots available in the “liberation treatment” clinical trials in Albany, New York.

Several spots in the clinical trial have been secured for Yukon residents who are found to be eligible, based on criteria set by the clinical trial hosts.

“Initially Yukon was going to take part in a clinical trial on the liberation treatment to be run through the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation. However, when that option did not happen, the Saskatchewan government partnered with a clinical trial in Albany, New York, and we have been able to arrange for some Yukon residents to participate,” Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham said.

The Albany clinical trial will examine the effectiveness of the liberation treatment procedure. It will compare people with MS who undergo the liberation procedure which includes angioplasty (a technique of mechanically widening a narrowed or obstructed blood vessel), with people with MS who undergo a very similar procedure but does not include the angioplasty.

From the eligible Yukon residents with MS who apply, 10 will be chosen through a random selection process to participate in the initial telephone interview that is the first step in the clinical trial’s screening program. From those who are interviewed, it is anticipated that seven or eight will pass the initial screen and then go to Regina for the in-person part of the screening program, which will involve a medical exam, specialized diagnostic imaging and a consent process.

Jenny Roberts, president of the Yukon Multiple Sclerosis Association, said that all her members are very excited and look forward to submitting their names for the clinical trial selection.

“I believe that our involvement from the beginning has helped break new ground and paved the way for Yukon’s participation in these trials. We are so excited to be at this point,” Roberts said.

It is expected that six Yukon patients at most will be accepted for the final step of participating in the Albany clinical trial.

Eligible Yukon participants cannot have had the treatment before, must be between the ages of 18 and 60 years, must be able to travel to the U.S. and make a two year commitment for follow-ups.

The application form and details of the trial are available from physicians, community health centres and online. Deadline for application submissions is April 30.

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