



MAR 14 2018

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 133-18(3): Chemotherapy Services at Stanton Hospital

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 20, 2018, regarding the suspension of chemotherapy services at the Stanton Territorial Hospital.

At the request of Stanton Territorial Hospital (Stanton), Cancer Control Alberta (CCA) was engaged to review cancer care and chemotherapy services provided at the facility. Recommendations for improvements to the chemotherapy program were raised as part of a program review. These improvements will help Stanton align with best practices.

Specific areas for immediate improvement that were identified were updating policy and procedures, and ensuring appropriate training for staff regarding roles and responsibilities. Currently, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Service Authority (NTHSSA) is working to address gaps by:

- Providing additional education for nurses that meets the national guidelines;
- Providing Physician, Pharmacy, and Technician education through the CCA;
- Developing Policy and Procedures to align with the Cancer Care Accreditation Canada Standards;
- Ensuring proper education and training for staff on the handling of the chemotherapy agents;
- Ensuring proper Personal Protective Equipment is available for staff handling chemotherapy agents;
- Ensuring proper transportation and disposal of chemotherapy agents;
- Working on an agreement with the CCA to ensure staff have access to Cancer Care Specialties and Resources;

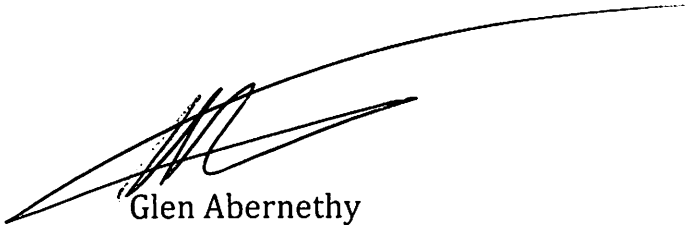
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- Defining what patients and treatments we can safely manage moving forward as a satellite site of the CCA;
- Ensuring that practices for the safe management and ordering of chemotherapy medications, assessments of patients, and charting aligns with CCA best practices;
- Establishing weekly Cancer Care rounds; and
- Improving service contracts to ensure pharmacy hood and air quality tests meet National Standards and align with the CCA.

The NTHSSA will continue to provide information to affected patients as we progress towards phasing in a resumption of services. Unfortunately, this process is affected by external factors and at this time it is not possible to provide an accurate timeline for this work to be completed.

Northwest Territories cancer patients are currently receiving exemplary care at the Cross Cancer Institute. This is the level of care we are expecting to continue as services as reestablished at Stanton Territorial Hospital.

Thank you.



Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive