

saskdocs

Prioritization of Services

Schedule: PRAS 92/2012

Prioritization of recruitment activities will be determined in collaboration with the Regional Health Authorities, Northern Medical Services, Saskatchewan Medical Association, Ministry of Health and Saskatchewan Cancer Agency leadership, and guided by the following:

1. Physicians in *sustainable practices* to support the ongoing provision of services required for Regional, District, Community and Northern hospitals with current or anticipated service disruptions, aligned with the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Authority strategic directions.
2. Family Physicians for sustainable practices in rural communities and cities, with the exception of Saskatoon and Regina.
3. Specialists as identified by Regional Health Authorities, Northern Medical Services and Saskatchewan Cancer Agency leadership.
4. Family Physicians for sustainable practices in cities, specifically Saskatoon and Regina.

While an ideal definition currently does not exist, saskdocs considers a sustainable practice to be one in which a minimum of four to six physicians are formally linked or networked in a manner that supports professional collegial relationships and reasonable call rotations.

Appendices

FACILITY DESIGNATION

Section 10 of *The Regional Health Services Act* allows the Minister to designate all or part of a facility operated by a regional health authority to one of the categories of facilities established in *The Facility Designation Regulations*:

Categories of regional health authority hospital facilities established under *The Facility Designation Regulations*, include the following: community, northern, district, regional and provincial. The regulations provide a detailed list of services that each category of facility is required to provide.

Community hospitals are located in 44 communities with populations less than 3,500. They focus on 24/7 emergency services, general medicine, basic lab and x-ray services, and observation, assessment, convalescent and palliative care services.

Northern hospitals are supported in four communities (La Ronge, La Loche, Ile a La Crosse and Stony Rapids) with populations ranging from about 1,500 to 4,500. They provide the same array of services as community hospitals, and they offer special programs to assist northern communities in retaining and recruiting the health providers they need to support a wide range of services. For example, video links to specialists in larger communities are a high priority.

District hospitals are supported in nine communities with populations of about 3,500 to 15,000. Services provided include 24/7 emergency services, general medical services for adults and children, low complexity surgeries, and low-risk deliveries of babies. Family physicians with additional training often provide the services. In addition, co-operative arrangements between district hospitals often exist to provide a support network.

Regional hospitals are located in Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Lloydminster, North Battleford, Swift Current and Yorkton. All six regional hospitals provide the minimum range of services founding district hospitals and they also provide reliable basic specialty services. Specialty services include internal medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology. These hospitals will also offer intensive care services.

Each regional hospital will work to maintain a minimum of three physicians with additional training in each discipline and offer on-site radiology services. In addition to the basic specialties, regional hospitals will have the ability to provide an even wider range of services including specialty services such as orthopedics (operations of the bone structure) and eye surgery.

Provincial hospitals in Regina and Saskatoon perform 72 per cent of all surgeries in Saskatchewan. Many of their patients come from outside the two cities. People throughout Saskatchewan rely on these hospitals for many specialized services including diagnostic tests such as MRI scans (magnetic resonance imaging) and a wide

range of surgeries and specialized medical services such as cancer treatment, heart surgery or intensive care for infants. These are the only hospitals with high enough patient volume to sustain more specialized program.

15 SASKATCHEWAN CITIES

Estevan, Humboldt, Lloydminster, Melfort, Martensville, Meadow Lake, Melville, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn, Yorkton