

The Inside Story

News Releases

RQHR Continues Commitment to Community-Based Surgeries

(November 17, 2014)

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) has recently signed a contract with Surgical Centres Inc. (SCI) to provide surgical services in the community.

The new contract, awarded following a Request for Proposals, begins immediately and continues until November 2017, with an option to extend.

"RQHR has effectively provided certain surgical procedures in the community since 2012. This initiative has enabled patients to receive their surgeries sooner, both in the community and in our acute care facilities," said Val Hunko, Vice President of Integrated Health Services. "We're very pleased to continue with the provision of this service to residents of RQHR and southern Saskatchewan, and look forward to our continued partnership with SCI."

RQHR surgeons have provided community surgical services through SCI on RQHR's behalf since 2012. The new contract increases the number and types of procedures that will be provided through the facility.

In 2013-14, RQHR patients received 26,613 surgical procedures; of that total, 5,460 received their surgical procedures in a community-based setting.

Overall, RQHR's surgical wait times have declined over the past year, and it is making progress towards the goal of reducing surgical waiting time to a maximum of three months by March 31, 2015. Currently, 1,164 patients have waited longer than three months for surgery, compared to 4,829 surgical patients waiting longer than three months as of March 31, 2013.

"Community-based surgical provision helps us to deliver safe, high-quality, and accessible care to our outpatients," Hunko said. "Providing services in the community that have been traditionally provided in our acute sites has been encouraged throughout the provincial health care system, and utilizing community-based services over the past few years in RQHR has allowed us to improve service for patients and reduce wait times."

RQHR is committed to providing increased access to health services in the community for the benefit of its patients. These benefits include:

- a more geographically friendly environment in a setting that is easy to navigate for patients and families;
- the service is provided outside of an acute care setting, supporting improved patient safety. There is less risk of hospital-acquired infections, as patients are in the ambulatory surgical facility for a short period of time, and are not exposed to sicker hospital-based patients; and
- the community-based surgical service, along with ensuring improved access to surgical services for community-based clients, decreases the queue for hospital-based surgical services, which facilitates improved access to surgical services for hospital in-patients, thereby improving overall timely quality care, and hospital capacity management.

In addition to improving service and providing benefits to patients, services provided by third-parties must be financially responsible, and provided at a cost equal to, or less than, what could be offered by the publicly-delivered health system in a like setting.

Related Documents

RFP – Surgical Services – September 2013
 Contract – Surgical Services – November 2014

-30-

For further information, contact:

Lisa Thomson
 Media Relations Consultant, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
 Tel: (306) 766-5332
 Email: lisa.thomson@rqhealth.ca