



Dr. Kenneth Atkins

3 Geneva Street | St. Catharines | ON | L2R 4M2

Notice of Practice Closure

Dear Patients:

It is with mixed emotions and after much thought that I have decided to close my general practice. It has been a privilege and an honor serving as your family doctor. **My last day of patient care is January 2nd, 2024.**

Finding a New Doctor

Unfortunately, I have not found a physician to take over my practice. I recognize that changing physicians may be stressful, but I encourage you to be proactive in your healthcare management during this time. I have provided some suggestions below on how you can find a new doctor:

1. Ask family and friends if their doctor might be able to accept you as a patient.
2. Speak to your local pharmacist who may be aware of new physicians in your area.
3. Call "Health Care Connect" (a Ministry of Health service available to help Ontarians locate a new healthcare provider) at 1-800-445-1822 or register online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-family-doctor-or-nurse-practitioner>. ***This service is only available if you do not have a family doctor, so you will need to notify us in writing that you no longer wish to be my patient and we will de-roster you. You will no longer be able to come to me after that for any services.***
4. Go online to www.doctors.cpsso.on.ca to search for physicians by name or other criteria.
5. Contact **RSRS** (see below). They often are aware of physicians accepting new patients and can also recommend some virtual / online options.

Unless you've found a new doctor, if you take ongoing medications, please make an appointment to see me in December to renew them.

If you have an urgent medical matter in the absence of a doctor, please proceed to the nearest emergency room.

Your Medical Record

The College of Physicians & Surgeons requires that original patient records be safely stored for a period of time before they can be destroyed. I have chosen to store all patient records from the practice with **RSRS**, a physician-managed company. They will provide you with a certified and fully-searchable copy of your patient record in a digital format. They will also explain how to keep your record up-to-date and how to provide it to your next doctor.

Your medical record does not automatically follow you when you leave a medical practice. It is an important file for your continued care and should be accessible at all times, *with or without a new doctor*. I encourage each of you to obtain a certified copy of your record as it is your personal medical history. I have included an infographic illustrating 10 reasons why the record is so important. You are encouraged to start the paperwork now with RSRS, however, unless you have found a new doctor, I recommend your record remains with me until the practice closes so that I can continue to oversee your care with your record.

To start the paperwork regarding the transfer of your medical record, please go to the following website:

www.recordsolutions.ca/DrAtkins

or contact RSRS directly:

Tel: 1-888-563-3732 / Fax: 1-877-398-5932 / Email: info@rsrs.com

While there is a fee for the copy/transfer of medical records, it is not prohibitive.

Thank you for your kindness and support over these years. I wish you well and good health for the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth Atkins

*RSRS is a physician-managed medical records storage facility. They are fully compliant with the guidelines set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the relevant privacy regulations.