



Dr. Brian Hartford

The Spence Clinic
1265 Arthur St. East Suite 500 | Thunder Bay, ON | P7E 5H7

Notice of Practice Closure

Dear Patients:

It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing the closing of my general practice. **My last day of patient care is July 31, 2025.** It has been a privilege and an honour to have helped you with your medical needs over the years.

Finding a New Doctor

Unfortunately, I have not found a physician to take over the practice. I recognize that finding a new physician is challenging. I encourage you to be proactive in your own healthcare management by maintaining your own copy of your medical record. Here are some suggestions for finding ongoing care:

1. Ask family and friends if they can try and get you in with their doctor.
2. Speak to your local pharmacist who may be aware of new physicians in your area.
3. Call "Health Care Connect" at 1-800-445-1822 or online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-family-doctor-or-nurse-practitioner>
4. Contact **RSRS** (see below). They have various resources that can assist you while you are searching for a new doctor.

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

Your Medical Record

I am required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to store all original patient records for a period before they can be destroyed. I have selected RSRS, a physician-managed company, to safely and securely store all patient records from my practice, and to assist you in obtaining a certified and searchable copy for yourself and/or your new physician. *Your medical record does not automatically follow you when you leave a medical practice, unless you arrange for it.*

I encourage you to obtain a certified copy of your personal medical history. It is a very important file for your continued care and should be accessible at all times, *especially in the absence of a new doctor.* I have included an infographic illustrating 10 reasons why getting your record is so valuable. Contact RSRS at:

www.recordsolutions.ca/DrBHartford

Tel: 1-888-563-3732

Fax: 1-877-398-5932

Email: info@rsrs.com

(Please note: You can arrange for a copy of your medical record immediately, however unless it's an emergency, the actual delivery of your requested medical record will take place only after my practice closes. There is a fee for the copy/transfer of your medical record in accordance with guidelines.)

It has been a pleasure to assist you with your health care needs. I wish all of you the best with good health for the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Hartford

*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.