



HarbourView

FAMILY HEALTH

WWW.HFHT.CA

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NOTICE OF PRACTICE CLOSURE

Dear Patients:

I wish to inform you, that after 41 years providing Family Practice service, it has come time to close/retire my Practice. I cannot express the honour and privilege it has been to be a part of your health care needs. This decision has been difficult; however it was made easier with the request from family to slow down and spend more time with them while still healthy. **My practice will be closed effective August 31, 2022.**

Finding a New Doctor

As you may know, there exists a shortage of family doctors in the area. Despite my efforts, I have not been able to find a doctor to take over my practice. If there is an opportunity with an alternate physician at Harbourview you will be contacted by our office. Please continue to proactively seek an alternative as this is not a guarantee. You will need to be resourceful to ensure continuity of care. I suggest the following:

1. Ask family and friends to ask their doctors if they would take you in.
2. Contact "Health Care Connect" which refers patients who don't have a doctor - 1-800-445-1822.
3. Obtain a copy of your medical record from RSRS for yourself, for a walk-in clinic, for emergency and for a new doctor. This will ensure continuity of care.
4. Contact RSRS (see below). They often become aware of doctors accepting new patients and they also have additional resources to facilitate continuity of care.

In the event of a medical emergency, always proceed to the nearest Emergency Department.

Your Medical Record

I am required by the CPSO to store all patient records for a period of time before they can be destroyed. I have selected RSRS, a physician-managed facility, 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 for a new doctor. (Note: My office will not be providing you your chart. You must contact RSRS to make arrangements.)

Please note: The transfer of your medical record is very important especially in the absence of a new doctor. I am including an infographic with this letter which describes 10 reasons why. Please do not delay in making arrangements. Kindly proceed to:

www.recordsolutions.ca/DrBehse

or call RSRS at

1-888-563-3732, Ext. 1

(Note: There is a non-prohibitive fee for the service as it is not covered by OHIP)

Again, it has not been an easy decision to leave my practice. It has been an honour to be a part of all the trials and tribulations of so many lives. I truly value the relationships we have developed. I wish you and your family all the best, good health, and happiness in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Behse, M.D.

*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 operate in keeping with the relevant privacy regulations.