



Dr. Esther R. W. Sturm

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NOTICE OF PRACTICE CLOSURE

December 2017

Dear Patients:

It is with mixed emotions that I am writing to inform you that I will be closing my practice effective January 31, 2018. After over thirty years of medical practice, I now look forward to having more flexibility for travel, family time and work. I will continue to work part-time in other practices, along with some work in preventative health and corporate medicine.

Finding a New Doctor

Unfortunately, my associates here all have full practices and are unable to accept new patients. I recommend the following to help you look for a new doctor:

1. Ask family and friends to ask their doctors if you can be accepted into their practices. A personal recommendation can make a big difference.
2. Health Care Connect is a Ministry of Health initiative which assists patients in finding a family doctor. They can be reached at 1-800-445-1822 or go to their website at: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/healthcareconnect/public
3. Family Medicine Teaching Units at teaching hospitals often accept new patients. Care is given by residents under the supervision of staff physicians. Enquire at your local hospital about their Family Medicine Teaching Unit.

Your Medical Record

Regardless of whether you find a new doctor immediately or even whether or not your new doctor requests a copy of your record, it is *your* medical history and it is an important document for continuity of your healthcare. I strongly urge you to obtain a copy for yourself and to take a copy of that copy for your new doctor when you have one. I have made arrangements with RSRS, a physician-managed company, to securely store all the records from my practice and to assist you in getting a "certified copy" upon receipt of your authorization. *Please note that there is a fee for this service in accordance with guidelines*, but RSRS has assured me that the fee will not be prohibitive. Medical record copies are now no longer available from my office.

Please obtain a "certified copy" of your medical record at:

www.RecordSolutions.ca/DrSturm

or call

1-888-563-3732 Ext. 1

I have come to value my relationship with each and every one of you and that is the difficulty in making the decision to close my practice. Some of you have been my patients for over thirty years. I will miss the warmth of our ongoing relationship and that is something that is not easily replaced. It has truly been a privilege to look after your needs over the years. I wish you all good health and happiness for the future.

Sincerely,

Esther R.W. Sturm M.D.