
To: MAHC Physicians
From: Dr. Jan Goossens, Chief of Staff
Date: September 8, 2016
Re: SMMH Site GIM Coverage

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, the departure of Dr. Oyakhire Ofori and the recent resignation of Dr. Anthony Deketele have left gaps in internal medicine coverage at the SMMH site. Administration is actively working to fill these gaps with Locum Tenens. Recruitment efforts are underway to recruit internists to meet the intended compliment of four internists. The Four Corners Group, a head-hunter firm has been hired to assist with recruitment and support this cause. We have reached out to HFO, our LHIN partners, numerous physicians and Chiefs of Medicine across the province with the hopes of filling the gaps as quickly as possible. I know this situation has caused a lot of angst and uncertainty amongst the medical staff. I appreciate your patience during this time.

In order to clarify the process and prevent misunderstandings, during the weeks where there is no internal medicine coverage it is paramount that ER physicians discuss admissions with the family practitioners prior to admissions. When appropriate the patients will be admitted under the family doctor. Please do not admit patients under the family doctors without directly discussing the care with them first (this may involve waking them up through the night). If the admission is not appropriate the first call should be to internal medicine at the HDMH site. If there is not capacity to take the patient, CritiCall should be consulted. If there are consultations on the ward, the internist on call at the HDMH site will provide telephone back up when appropriate. There may be times when patients will need to be transferred between sites. I don't think we can make any hard and fast rules but would suggest that transfers be performed when it is in the best interest of the patient. EMS has been alerted to the situation and they are aware that there may be increased traffic between the two sites.

I realize that this has had a ripple effect throughout the organization for physicians and staff involved and I thank you once for your patience as we work through this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jan Goossens, Chief of Staff
Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare