



## FIVE HILLS HEALTH REGION THERAPIES DEPARTMENT

DATE: June 24, 2013

MEMO TO: All Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Directors

FROM: Lisa Benson, Regional Director of Therapies

RE: Extreme shortage of physical therapists

The FHHR Therapies Department is currently experiencing an extreme shortage of Physical Therapists. We expect to be running at 50% of our usual staffing until late in the fall of 2013. As a result, we must prioritize and adjust our services.

Our staffing plan is as follows:

- Inpatient services at MJUH are high priority and will be unaffected
- Community services (in home therapy) will be slightly reduced; we will be encouraging clients who are able to attend outpatient therapy in order to save Therapists' time.
- All PT service in **Craik** will be temporarily discontinued. An OT will be available for urgent in home therapy.
- PT service in Central Butte will be reduced to monthly.
- **Outpatient service at MJUH:** we will have a very reduced capacity to serve outpatients.
  - We will accommodate all acute surgical clients and clients with fractures.
  - **Clients with chronic conditions or injuries will not be seen at this time. There are currently over 100 clients waiting on our list with chronic injuries and they can expect to wait over 6 months for this service.** Clients on our waitlist will be notified of this increased wait time.
  - Please encourage your clients to seek PT service at a private clinic, especially if they have insurance coverage.
- **Pediatric outpatient PT, OT and Autism service:** our pediatric PT and OT are leaving us in July. Over the summer, pediatric PT service will be reduced.
  - We have recruited a new PT who will begin work in late October and will provide pediatric outpatient services.
  - The pediatric/Autism OT has already been replaced and this service will continue unaffected.
- Service in Assiniboia and Gravelbourg will be unaffected.

We are actively recruiting graduates from the U of S who will be licensed in Oct-Nov 2013. We are optimistic that we may be fully staffed again at that time. We will inform you when our capacity is back to normal.

You may contact Lisa Benson at 306.694.0350 or [lbenson@fhhr.ca](mailto:lbenson@fhhr.ca) with any questions or concerns.