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## News Release

September 6, 2017

For immediate release

### **Temporary physician shortage in Tisdale**

Kelsey Trail Health Region is asking the residents of Tisdale & surrounding area for their patience and cooperation over the upcoming month as the result of a temporary physician shortage at the North East Medical Clinic.

As the result of some changes among physician resources, clinic appointment access and emergency room wait times may be temporarily impacted. Residents may experience longer wait times and are being asked to make every effort to schedule non-emergency medical appointments at the clinic and use the emergency room for urgent or emergency situations. For health information or advice anytime, residents may contact HealthLine at 811.

Kelsey Trail Health Region is working to address the current physician resource challenges in an effort to meet demand. Toward that end, Dr. Stephanie Nyberg of Melfort has been recruited to cover part of Dr. Richardson's maternity leave by providing services in Tisdale one day per week until Dr. Richardson returns in January 2018. A new physician is expected to begin practicing in Tisdale on a permanent basis in mid-October pending successful completion of the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA). Another physician will begin the SIPPA program in September and pending successful completion will begin practicing in January 2018. In the interim, KTHR will also be utilizing the services of locum physicians to address demand.

Patients that are unable to schedule a timely appointment with a physician or Nurse Practitioner for prescription refills are encouraged to consult with their community pharmacist who will be able to determine how they can best help their patient with their medication needs.

Meeting the health care needs of the residents of Tisdale and area is the primary concern of the health region during this period. While the health region strives to accomplish this, there may be some temporary disruption to the services residents are used to receiving. KTHR will try to minimize the impact on patients and clients but asks for their ongoing patience and cooperation. .

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For more information, please contact:

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