

WEBSITE: WWW.SUNCOUNTRY.SK.CA

**POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

**THE FIRST
PATIENTS
RECEIVE
TREATMENT
AT SCHR'S
RENAL
DIALYSIS
UNIT**

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

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Management
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Awards

Learning about advanced foot care services - Dr. Nick Perry, left, Sun Country Health Region Podiatrist, led an advanced foot care workshop for nurses in the Region in Weyburn during October, with more than 20 caregivers attending. Here he is demonstrating advanced techniques to Penny Spencer, middle, and Christina Haskey, right, both from the Gainsborough Health Centre.



New Renal Dialysis unit opens

Cal Tant, CEO of Sun Country Health Region (SCHR), welcomed the first patients to receive renal dialysis in the Region's newly built treatment centre on November 14.

"This is a great day for the residents of SCHR," he said. "The start of this service will result in immediate positive benefits for the lives and health of many residents in South East Saskatchewan," he said.

"This new unit has made it possible for many people who need this treatment to receive it closer to home," said Cal. "Before this opened, people from communities in the far

corners of SCHR had to travel as many as seven hours a day to dialysis treatment in Regina. They've done that for three days a week, in good weather and bad," he says.

"Now these people will travel two hours to Estevan. They will face a seven-hour day, instead of a 13-hour day. This is a huge improvement in their quality of life."

Cal said Sun Country Health Region is very grateful to Saskatchewan Health and local donors for their financial support of the project.

"Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged and are an indication of the ongoing commitment to quality health

care for the residents of SCHR," he said.

"This was a large and optimistic undertaking and we are very pleased that it is up and running," he said.

The new unit was constructed on the second floor of St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan, at a cost of \$1.7 million. Construction began in late 2006.

Each of the nursing staff completed 12 weeks of specialized training required to work in a dialysis unit. The unit will serve 12 patients. A dialysis unit purifies the blood of a patient, when his/ her kidneys are not functioning.

Representative Workforce News

Initial Stages of Workforce Diversity Audit Completed

In April 2007, a Workforce Diversity Audit was distributed to all employees of SCHR. The audit is used to assist the Region in monitoring our progress in building a Representative Workforce which includes representation from all groups. These groups include:

- Caucasian
- Aboriginal peoples: First Nations-status, First Nations-non-status, Metis, Inuit
- Persons with disabilities
- Individuals in Non-traditional roles.

Initially the Representative Workforce program focuses on the Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal population within Saskatchewan is approximately 13% and is anticipated to grow to 50% by the year 2045.

SCHR requires a qualified labor force and the Aboriginal community can provide a great resource of personnel. SCHR wants to create an environment that includes individuals of diversity and has strategies in place to recruit and retain our employees.

Count yourself in!

To find out more about the Representative Workforce program or to register for training contact:

Kelly Beattie
Aboriginal Employment Services Coordinator
736-2218

kbeattie@schr.sk.ca

To date, 379 employees have disclosed and their information entered into a Provincial Reporting database, equating to a 16% return rate. To accurately determine if SCHR is representative, a greater disclosure rate is needed.

All employees of SCHR are encouraged to complete the voluntary self-identification form to provide a comprehensive analysis of the work force and to determine if indeed it is representative of the provincial working age population.

Employees wishing to self-identify can do so in one of two ways:

- Complete a hard copy of the audit, which can be obtained from your Manager or Human Resources.

It is then returned to Human Resources and entered on your behalf into the database. It is important that all information is complete on the form.

- Enter your own data online at <http://disclose.saho.com>



We get bouquets:

Home Care Manager Debra Laurent says one home care client has reported to her that:

"The home health aides are wonderful and I really appreciate them. The Home Care Program should be really proud of them."



Photo courtesy of the Weyburn Review

New colonoscope for Weyburn General Hospital — EnCana Community Relations Advisor Twila Walkeden and nurses from the Weyburn General Hospital gather next to a recently purchased colonoscope. The nursing staff include Operating Room Charge Nurse Coreen Ward and Sterilization Processing Technicians Shelley Wanner and Janet Olson, Sterile Processing Worker. EnCana donated \$25,000 towards the purchase of the colonoscope.

Taking the Next Step in Patient Safety

The fifth National Learning Series for Safer Healthcare Now! will be hosted by the Western Node in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 1 & 2, 2008.

For health care providers and leaders engaged in the campaign, this year's National Learning Series, *Building Momentum for the Future: Taking the Next Step in Patient Safety*, will provide a stimulating and energizing opportunity to gain

new skills, understanding and to re-energize commitment to improving the quality and safety of patient care.

The focus for this year will be on skill development, launching the four new Phase II interventions, and sharing new knowledge on the six Phase I interventions. Team members, senior leaders and others from across the country will gather to share and learn from one another to support con-

tinued work in the campaign.

The National Learning Series will be held in conjunction with the National ICU Collaborative, Western Node AMI & Med Rec Collaborative and Paediatric Med Rec Collaborative events that will be held on March 31, 2008.

Registration will be available in early December. Watch for details on the *Safer Healthcare Now!* Website, at

www.saferhealthcarenow.ca.

Home Care manager attends Safety Summit

Judy Pratt, Home Care Manager, Sun Country Health Region, represented the Region at the June, 2007 Safety Summit Conference in Saskatoon.

The keynote speaker, Craig Beesley, who is Program Director, Rural & Geriatric Services, for Five Hills Health Region, spoke from the heart about a fatal accident involving a maintenance man operating a small tractor on hospital grounds and the

many indicators that had been overlooked.

Home Care staff work alone and sometimes in isolated areas and the session on Working Alone provided excellent material that can be adapted to Sun Country Health Region. Safety Assessments, the rights and responsibilities of clients, check in/check out plans and severe weather condi-

tions protocol were some of the areas covered.

Sun Country Health Region Medical Health Officer Dr. Shauna Hudson gave a well-received presentation on pandemic planning. She provided general information on pandemic planning, infection control, and Occupational Health and Safety preparation guidelines.



All business - Regional Finance Director Pam Haupstein organized the quarterly meeting of all managers in Sun Country Health Region, along with Regional Information Systems Director Doug Bresciani.

Scenes from a Regional Management Meeting



Whose joke was that? - From left to right, Debbie Thompson, Regional Director of Nutrition and Food Services; Linda Wilson, New Hope Pioneer Lodge and Fillmore Health Centre Manager; Charles Eddy, Regional Director Emergency Medical Services; and Marga Cugnet, Vice President Primary and Integrated Health. Standing is Sylvia Danyluk, Labour Relations Consultant.



Deep discussion - From left to right, Carolyn Andrews, Regional Director Laboratory Services; Dale Rodenbush, Regional Director, Pharmacy; and Karen Ochitwa, Regional Director, Medical Imaging.



So what do you think? - From left to right, Kelly Lawrence, Payroll/Scheduling Manager; Val Cameron, Employment Services Coordinator; Shirley Wheeler, Regional Housekeeping Manager; Terry Steininger.

A note from Smokers' Helpline . . .

**By Kelly Pierson,
Smokers' Helpline
Coordinator**

In August, Canada's Minister of Health, the Honourable Tony Clement, announced a new goal when he said, "Reaching a 12 per cent smoking rate is a very ambitious goal, but it is by no means unrealistic."

As a Smokers' Helpline Fax Referral partner, I am calling on you to lend your active support to help achieve such an ambitious goal.

There are significant challenges that must be overcome to meet and sustain the goal.

Given that intervening with a smoking patient can produce bigger health returns than **any** other intervention, every health care professional should view himself or herself as a tobacco interventionist.

The Smokers' Helpline's gold standard "Ask, Advise, Refer" is very effective. Please remind every member of your Health Professional team to master these three easy steps and lead smoking patients through them. It will only take 30 seconds to

alter or save a life. Ask, Advise, Refer to the Smokers' Helpline; have the patient fill in a fax referral form, fax it to the Smokers' Helpline and we'll do the rest.

The Smokers' helpline is



intended to be an additional confidential resource to traditional in-person counseling. Patients who would not otherwise be seen will receive counseling via the telephone. Some patients prefer the convenience or the anonymity of the Smokers' Helpline. They can receive our free, one-to-one, confidential, bilingual service in the comforts of their home. I encourage you to use our straightforward protocol to help patients. Simply

ask patients whether they smoke or use tobacco, advise them to quit, and have them fill in a fax referral form for assistance, including counseling and advice about medications.

The Fax Referral program can help to achieve a significant drop in Saskatchewan smoking rates. Every year we lose 1,000 people to smoking. That is like losing all the residents of Foam Lake, Saskatchewan. These people are your friends, family, co-workers. Don't let them fall through

the cracks. YOU can make a difference; catch the good that is within your reach. Please implement the Fax Referral protocol in your day-to-day practice.

Please make your now **wow**, your minutes **miracles** and your days **pay**.

For more information, please call me:

**Kelly Pierson,
Smokers' Helpline
Coordinator**

Tel: 790-5816

E-mail:

kpierson@sk.cancer.ca

"These people are your friends, family, co-workers. Don't let them fall through the cracks."

Sun Country Health Region hosts First Annual Patient Safety Conference



In the audience - Sun Country Health Region (SCHR) Board Member Dave Kerr chats during a break at the First Annual Patient Safety Conference in October.



Hearing directly about patient safety - Participants at Sun Country Health Region's First Annual Patient Safety Conference in October heard from Donna Davis, who spoke about the death of her son Vance, who died while receiving care in a Saskatchewan hospital.



A full house - Over 200 employees of Sun Country Health Region gathered at McKenna Hall in Weyburn in October for the First Annual Patient Safety Conference. Organizers were very pleased with the turnout. Audience members heard from Paula Beard, Project Manager, Canadian Patient Safety Institute and Janet Harding, Director, Department of Pharmaceutical Services, Saskatoon Regional Health Authority.

Dietary staff win awards

The dietary staff in four health facilities in Sun Country Health Region stepped out of the kitchen and into the limelight this fall when they were honoured for their commitment to food excellence, public service and community spirit.

The Health Care Council of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) presented Certificates of Recognition and Achievement to CUPE dietary staff in **Lampman, Wawota, Radville and Fillmore.**

The events were held in conjunction with CUPE's national Communities Day celebrations.

The awards, presented in three categories – Food Excellence, the People's Choice and Supporting the Local Community – recognize the work of dietary staff and other health providers who prepare hot, nutritious meals from scratch, go the extra distance to improve the quality of

life for hospital patients and long-term care residents, and buy locally to support the community.

“Everyone knows the importance of nutrition to health and well-being,” says CUPE Health Care Council President Gordon Campbell. “But it’s particularly true for hospital patients recovering from surgeries and elderly residents living in long-term care facilities.”

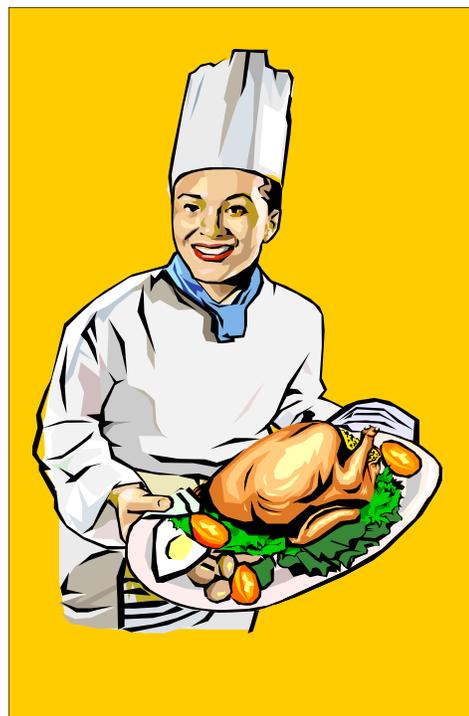
The Food Excellence Certificate recognizes the work of dietary staff who ‘slave over a hot stove’ to ensure that meal time is the best part of people’s days in hospitals and long-term care facilities across the province, Campbell says.

The award is only presented to facilities that prepare food with fresh ingredients and restrict their use of pre-packaged food

products.

This year’s recipients of the Food Excellence Award are the dietary staff at the **Lampman Health Centre and Deerview Lodge in Wawota.**

This year’s People’s Choice Award went to the dietary staff at the **Fillmore Health Centre**, who make every meal a special occasion, while the Supporting the Local Community Award was presented to the dietary staff at the **Radville Marian Health Centre.**



CHRISTMAS TOURS

Schedule for Visits

December 2007

Facility	Date	Time	Leadership Rep	RHA Rep.
Galloway Health Centre (Oxbow)	Dec. 3	10:00 A.M.	Janice, Murray, Don	J. McFarlane
Mainprize Manor (Midale)	Dec. 3	2:00 P.M.	Janice, Murray, Don	L. Ward, M. Gallaway
Coronach Health Centre	Dec. 3	10:00 A.M.	Ken	V. Palmer
Bengough Health Centre	Dec. 3	2:00 P.M.	Ken	M. Koszman
Pangman Health Centre	Dec. 4	11:30 A.M.	Don, Murray	D. Kerr
Radville Marian Health Centre	Dec. 4	2:00 P.M.	Don, Murray	D. Kerr
New Hope Pioneer Lodge (Stoughton)	Dec. 4	10:00 A.M.	Ken	E. Kickley
Fillmore Health Centre	Dec. 4	2:00 P.M.	Ken	E. Kickley
Redvers Health Centre	Dec. 6	10:00 A.M.	Ken	A. Arthur, S. Bauche
Moose Mountain Lodge (Carlyle)	Dec. 6	2:00 P.M.	Ken	D. Standingready
Arcola Health Centre	Dec. 6	10:00 A.M.	Murray	D. Standingready
Lampman Health Centre	Dec. 6	1:30 P.M.	Murray	E. Kickley
Willowdale Lodge	Dec. 6	1:30 P.M.	Marga, Don	R. Dash
Kipling Memorial Health Centre	Dec. 6	2:30 P.M.	Marga, Don	R. Dash
Deerview Lodge (Wawota) & Maryfield Health Clinic	Dec. 13	2:00 P.M.	Cal, Don	R. Dash
Weyburn Special Care Home	Dec. 10	2:00 P.M.	Marga, Janice	D. Kerr
Weyburn General Hospital	Dec. 18	9:30 A.M.	Marga, Ken, Murray, Don, Cal, Janice	D. Kerr
Tatagwa View & CHSB	Dec. 18	2:00 P.M.	Marga, Ken, Murray, Don, Cal, Janice	D. Kerr
SUNCOUNTRY CHATTER				



Please
print this
page and
save it for
future
reference.

Some rule changes about disclosure

**By Mark Pettitt,
Regional Director,
Continuous Quality
Improvement and
Privacy Officer**

Disclosing Personal Health Information to Police is not a simple matter in Saskatchewan. Health care personnel must follow different rules, depending on the circumstance.

So let's start with this simple premise: The police arrive in your facility and want some personal health information about a patient. What can you give them? Do you need consent? What about mandatory reporting?

1. Disclosure Without Consent

Under HIPA (The Health Information Protection Act), there is now a regulation allowing police and RCMP to obtain personal health information from us without patient consent. This is new and different from past practice. This means that we can provide the police and RCMP with some limited types of personal health information without patient consent as shown in the following two examples.

A). Where the disclosure is requested for the enforcement of or carrying out an investigation pursuant to the Criminal Code or the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada). Where disclosure is made on a without consent basis to assist with enforcement or investigation, the personal health information disclosed by the Region must be limited to registration information of the individual or information related to the nature and severity of an injury that was

suffered by the individual and that is connected with the enforcement or investigation. Disclosure in this case is made to assist a Police Service with, for example, locating and identifying a suspect in a crime, corroborating a victim, or assessing the level of violence involved in an offense for the purpose of deciding upon the proper charge to be laid against a suspect.

B). Where the Individual received or was offered health services as a direct result of an incident that is the subject of an investigation pursuant to the Criminal Code or the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada).

Where disclosure is made by the Region on a without consent basis in connection with such an incident, the personal health information disclosed must be limited to facts surrounding the incident or the provision of health services, and must not include information regarding the prior health history of the individual. Disclosure in this case is made to assist a Police Service with, for example, gathering facts and observations regarding an incident that they are investigating for the purpose of deciding whether an offense has been committed. The disclosure without consent is documented on the health record using the Request for Disclosure of Personal Health Information to Police Services Without Consent form [IM009](#).

The disclosure of personal health information to police without consent is discretionary, not mandatory, and is to be approached on a case-by-case basis. The police must demonstrate that the information is required for one of the two reasons listed above and that consent is not possible or was unable to be obtained. Please refer to IM-35-15-15 Disclosure to Law Enforcement Agencies policy for more informa-

tion.

However there are other circumstances when reporting information to either the RCMP or municipal police is mandatory.

2. Mandatory Reporting

A new Act called The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act came into effect in 2007.'

This is new legislation and is separate and different than HIPA. This Act requires us to report (mandatory) to the police any incident involving a gunshot or stab wound that arrives at our hospital/facility.

Upon assessment by a physician or other designated health professional, if a patient is determined to be receiving treatment for a gunshot or stab wound, the staff member in charge of care verbally notifies the local police service as soon as it is reasonably practicable without disrupting the regular activities of the facility.

The information to be verbally disclosed to the local police service is:

- The fact that a patient is being treated, or has been treated, for a gunshot or stab wound;
- The patient's name, if known;
- The name and location of the facility and unit.

The mandatory requirement covers all types of gunshot injuries. Self-inflicted stab wounds are not to be reported.

The disclosure is documented on the health record using the Mandatory Reporting of Gun Shot and Stab Wound form [IM008](#).

For more information and definitions, refer to Policy No. IM-35-15-20 Mandatory Reporting of Gunshot and Stabwounds.

Please call me at 842-8739 with questions about these new procedures.

Gainsborough Health Centre celebrates hallmark year



Photo courtesy of Carnduff Gazette Post News

Laurie Cole, Community Health Services Manager of Gainsborough Health Centre

The Gainsborough Health Centre invited all members of the public to join them for coffee and cake at a 20th anniversary celebration on Friday, September 21 at 2 p.m. at the centre. “A 20th anniversary is a hallmark year, so we decided to celebrate it,” says Laurie Cole, Community Health Services Manager of the Centre, and long time staff member. “The community is changing so it’s a good year to include people who have some history with this centre,” she says. “It’s also a perfect opportunity to say thank you to all those generous members of the community who support us so enthusiastically,” says Laurie. “We have fantastic support from the people of this area.” “Typical of that is the palliative care bed we needed last year. We needed to raise \$12,000 but we raised enough for three before the fundraiser was finished,” she says. Current and former staff members were also invited to the celebration.

A barbecue was held in the evening for past and current staff members who are, and always have been, critical to the operation of the health centre.

Almost 50 per cent of the current staff has been there since the facility opened in 1987. “After you work there for 20-30 years, you feel like you are an integral part of it. And it’s true. We can’t function without them,” says Laurie. “They took ownership years ago. They clearly have a commitment to the facility. I can rely on them to come and do the work,” she says. “People who come from other places look around and can’t believe the kind of teamwork we have here. We’ve been told we have something very special,” she says. “That staff cohesiveness makes it possible to provide an exceptional quality of service to patients and residents,” says Laurie. “We often hear that from the residents and their families.”

Almost 50 per cent of the current staff has worked at the Gainsborough Health Centre since the facility opened in 1987.

Centenarian donates needlework

A 101-year old resident of Estevan Regional Nursing Home, Pearl Carriere, donated her crochet piece of the Lord’s Prayer to ERNH this fall.

Mrs. Carriere was a Lampman area resident until she was 92 years old.

She moved into Estevan in 1998 and lived in her own apartment until Dec. 2003. Her granddaughter Vanessa Marcotte, Assistant Director of Finance for Sun Country Health Region, tells us Pearl has always done needlework,

quilting, crocheting and knitting, and is an avid card and bingo player.

She has three children, ten grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.



Pearl Carriere, resident of the Estevan Regional Nursing Home



Sun Country Regional Health Authority Administration

President and Chief Executive
Calvin Tant 842-8718
Vice President Finance
and Corporate Services:
Ken Adams 842-8714
Vice President Human Resources:
Don Ehman 842-8724
Vice President Primary and Integrated Care:
Marga Cugnet 842-8729
Vice President Community Health:
Janice Giroux 842-8652
Regional Director, Primary Care/
Rehabilitation:
Gale Pryznyk 634-0410.
Director of Rural Facilities:
Murray Goeres 842-8706
Quality of Care Coordinator:
Dianne Green 637-3642

*Please send information about
the activities in your facility to:*

Joanne Helmer
Communications Coordinator
Sun Country
Regional Health Authority
Box 2003,
Weyburn SK S4H 2Z9
Tel: 842-8353
Email: Helmer, Joanne SCHR

We want:
Healthy People
in Healthy Communities



Welcome the Region's staff changes and additions

Grant Paulson,
Regional Director
Public Health,
announces that
Derrick Mooney has
assumed the role of
Senior Public Health
Inspector. Derrick has
worked as a Public
Health Inspector with
the Sun Country
Regional Health
Authority since
September of 2000.

Natalie Bieberdorf,
Regional Manager of
Therapies, announces



that **Jill Guenther** will work as a Regional
Therapist for Sun Country Regional Health
Authority. Jill's main office is in Therapy Ser-
vices, Tatagwa View. She can be reached at
842-8450. Jill received her Masters from the
University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.
She has been working for the Regional
Health Authority – Central Manitoba. She
has experience in the areas of swallowing
(dysphagia), aphasia, dysarthria, apraxia,
voice disorders secondary to a wide variety
of diagnoses, including degenerative dis-
eases such as Parkinson's and MS.

Murray Goeres,
Regional Director of
Rural Health
Facilities, announces
that **Gail Abdai**, RN
has assumed the
position of
Community Health
Services Manager for
the Lampman Health
Centre and Mainprize
Manor, located in
Midale. Gail comes to
us from the Cypress
Health Region, where
she previously
worked at the Swift
Current Regional
Hospital.