

NEWS RELEASE

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Family Physician Recruitment

Two Yorkton family physicians have notified Sunrise Health Region of their intent to leave the community of Yorkton to begin practice elsewhere. The health region has received confirmation that a family physician new to the area will begin practice in Yorkton starting in April.

Dr. Dag Lawale will start a family medicine practice in Yorkton April 1, 2010. His office will be located at City Medical Centre, 398 Broadway Street West. Dr. Lawale looks forward to working with Dr. Oduntan and several area physicians who run a walk-in clinic at the same location.

Dr. Donovan Van Eeden will return to practice in Langenburg, effective April 9, 2010 to begin work in a primary health setting. Patients can continue to access their medical records from his Yorkton office until April 30, 2010 and his Langenburg clinic after April 30, 2010.

Dr. Elias Soumbasis will move from Yorkton at the end of May 2010 when his Yorkton practice and patient records will transfer to another physician. Dr. Soumbasis will release the name of the physician who will take over his practice once the arrangements are finalized.

“We welcome Dr. Lawale to Yorkton and are happy that Dr. Van Eeden will continue to practice in Sunrise Health Region,” says Director of EMS and Medical Services, Derek Keller. “The health region has appreciated Dr. Soumbasis’s many contributions to the community and his medical leadership and partnership with the health region on many innovative projects.”

The health region keeps a list of physicians accepting new patients on the website www.sunrisehealthregion.sk.ca under the side menu “Physician Information”.

Physician moves are not within the control of the health region. Most physicians work in private practice settings. Medical records maintained by physicians in private practice are the responsibility of the physician.

“The Sunrise Health Region employs a medical services coordinator to help communities and physicians with recruitment advertising and working through the licensure and immigrations process,” says Keller. “The health region also helps new physicians to learn about the community and, when needed, arranges temporary housing.”

A physician who decides to move to the area must be licensed by the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons. Once licensed, a physician can then apply for permission to practice medicine in hospitals and health centers operated by Sunrise Health Region.

“Recruitment is difficult due to a world-wide shortage of physicians,” adds Keller. “Sunrise Health Region certainly welcomes the March 24, 2010 budget announcement of a Provincial Physician Recruitment Agency and new physician recruitment and retention strategies.”

Yorkton, Kamsack, Preeceville and Canora are actively recruiting for family physicians. There are currently two physicians in Kamsack, one in Preeceville and three in Canora and each of these communities is recruiting for an additional physician. Yorkton will have 13 family physicians after the departure of Drs Soumbasis and Van Eeden and with arrival of Dr. Lawale. The health region estimates the need for a total of 18 family physicians to serve the Yorkton population.

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For more information, please contact:

Sharon Tropin, Director of Communications

306.786.0144