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May 29, 2018

County of St Paul
5015- 49 Ave
St. Paul, Alberta
T0A 3A4

Attention Sheila Kitz

Reeve and Council:

The MD of St Paul Foundation is requesting a Letter of Support from our Municipal members to have the decision by Alberta Health Services (AHS) to discontinue mobile blood collection services at Sunnyside Manor reversed to include all residents. Effective May 1, 2018 the residents will need to qualify for the service using the eligibility criteria outlined in this letter. The residents will require their physician to fill out a mobile collection form and it will be submitted for review.

Eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Patient must have had a recent hospitalization and/or surgery that temporarily restricts their travel outside the home.
- Patient has an ongoing medical restriction and is unable to attend appointments or other activities outside the home.
- Patient resides in a secured or safe living environment (e.g. Dementia Unit).

A patient is not eligible for a laboratory mobile collection if:

- The patient is a resident in a supportive or assisted living facility and participates in group activities (for example: shopping and social outings).
- The patient's mobility has improved such that the patient is able to participate in activities such as shopping or banking excursions or going for long walks.
- Patient arranges for transportation activities such as shopping, banking, hair appointments.
- Patient is able to drive a motor vehicle or can arrange a ride.

AHS Laboratory Services were coming once a week to Sunnyside Manor for the purpose of blood collection. Sunnyside Manor is a unique rural lodge, housing 120 residents, the average age of these residents is 85. Of the 120 residents at the lodge 26 have a vehicle. The remainder must depend on the town handi-bus, the taxi service or family if they are available to take them to the hospital to have their semi-monthly or weekly blood collection completed.

The above scenario from AHS possess many issues for our residents:

- The St Therese Health Center Outpatient Laboratory is almost two blocks from Sunnyside Manor, walking for our residents is not any option.
- Exposing the residents whom are already susceptible to infectious virus, has been increased immensely.
- Transportation to and from the Outpatient Laboratory is an issue.
- The majority of the residents at Sunnyside Manor are low income seniors, adding an extra financial burden by adding increased transportation costs.
- Depending on the wait times at the Outpatient Laboratory they many miss their scheduled meals.
- When the facility is deemed by the Medical Officer of Health, to be in an outbreak, residents are not to leave the lodge, residents will miss their routine blood collection.

The objective of the AHS ministry is to ensure that Albertan's receive the right health care services, at the right time, **in the right place**, provided by the right health care providers and teams.

Therefore, with all of the above points noted, discontinuing the mobile blood collection at Sunnyside Manor puts undue hardship on the residents, shows disregard for their wellbeing and shows a failure to acknowledge how this will dramatically affect the residents going forward.

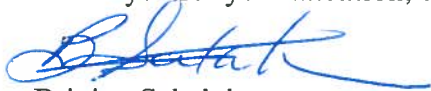
Letters of Support may be submitted to:

Mr. Dave Hanson MLA for Lac La Biche- St Paul- Two Hills:

laclabiche.stpaul.twohills@assembly.ab.ca

Wendy Corbiere Director Laboratory Services, North Zone: wendy.corbiere@ahs.ca

Thank you for your attention, consideration and time.



Brigitte Sakaluk

C.A.O.

MD of St Paul Foundation