

# Provincial Clinical Notification

## New: Provincial Spine Assessment Clinic

Date issued: October 27, 2022

**Notice To:** All Primary Care Providers

### Provincial Spine Assessment Clinic – Referrals and Reporting

Dear Colleagues,

The Provincial Spine Assessment Clinic has expanded to be able to accept referrals from both Winnipeg and Brandon surgeons, with both in-person and virtual consultation available.

This model has proven successful in improving the management of chronic spinal pain amongst Manitobans since the Winnipeg Spine Assessment Clinic opened in 2015, with approximately 90 percent of referrals able to be helped through non-surgical treatments including physiotherapy, chiropractic care and other pain management solutions. We are pleased to be expanding this model to rural Manitoba.

Primary care providers should continue to use existing spine referral forms when referring patients experiencing spinal pain. Surgeons will review referrals and direct appropriate patients to the Provincial Spine Assessment Clinic based on acuity and patient information provided.

Referred patients will be clinically assessed for their surgical candidacy or suitability for alternate forms of treatment. These consultations will result in a detailed report sent directly to the surgeon and the referring primary care provider, with recommendations for alternate care when appropriate.

For some primary care providers, while the referral process is unchanged, you will now receive a report from the Provincial Spine Assessment Clinic once your patient's assessment has been completed. This report will be provided to both the referring primary care provider and the surgeon regardless of whether the patient is determined to be a candidate for surgery or recommendations for alternate therapies are identified.

#### Contact Information:

If your clinic has questions about the Provincial Spine Assessment Clinic, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Malenchak, 204-787-4679, [KMalenchak@hsc.mb.ca](mailto:KMalenchak@hsc.mb.ca)

#### Issued by:

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