Resident Practice-Sharing: Information for Patients

What is Practice-Sharing?

Practice-sharing is a model of care in which two physicians share responsibility for a common group of patients. Patients who are registered under these physicians may see either of them, based on their own choice or convenience. Both physicians will have access to all the patients’ charts and be able to provide the same level of high-quality care.

Why?

When physicians share a common practice, their patients have access to two physicians who know them, rather than only one. This means that it will be much easier for you to see a physician who is familiar with you than it has been in the past. Research has shown that this is important for patients’ health and satisfaction. As an added bonus, you will now have the combined knowledge and intelligence of two physicians overseeing your care.

How will this affect me?

You will now have two family physicians instead of one. Both will be responsible for following up on your test results and coordinating your care. You may book appointments with either physician. We hope that this will improve your access to appointments in a timely manner.

FAQs

1) How do I find out who my family physicians are?
   a. Please contact the clinic reception if you are not sure who your family physicians are.

2) What if both of my physicians are not available to see me soon enough?
   a. Because you will now have double the number of available appointments to book into, this will be an unlikely situation. However, if neither of your family physicians is available, you may still book an appointment with one of the other doctors at our clinic.

3) What happens when my physicians have finished their residency program?
   a. The Family Medicine residency is two years long. One of your physicians will be in the first year of his/her program and the second physician will be in his/her second year. Each year, one of your resident physicians will graduate leave the clinic, and a new physician will become one of your family physicians. Therefore, you will always have someone available who has known you for at least one year.

4) I recently did a test and I am wondering about the results. Who should I see about this?
a. The physician who originally ordered the test would be happy to discuss the results with you. However, if s/he not available, you may book an appointment with your second family physician, who will also have access to your test results.