

## Shelburne Community Partners / Nova Scotia Health Update

June 2025

### Primary Health Update

#### New patients rostered to Shelburne Family Practice

Significant progress continues to be made by the Shelburne Family Practice team in rostering new patients and removing patients from the [Need a Family Practice Registry Update](#).

**362 new patients** have been rostered to a nurse practitioner (NP) or family physician in Shelburne County between February and May, 2025:

- 147** new patients – February
- 117** new patients – March
- 98** new patients – April

### Well Women Clinics

Well Women’s clinics held in Barrington continue to be well used with 16 people being seen in March and April. Clinics offer pap tests, breast exams, contraceptive counselling, and sexual health care services for patients with or without a provider by appointment. Check the Shelburne Family Practice Facebook page for updates or call the clinic **902-875-2321**.

### Primary Care Clinics – Shelburne, Barrington, Clark’s Harbour

Primary care clinic services from a Nurse Practitioner, for people who do not have a regular family provider.

	Shelburne Clinic visits	Barrington / Clark’s Harbour visits
<b>Feb:</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>March:</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>April:</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>22</b>

Dr. Alenabi is now working part time at the Barrington Clinic and part time in Shelburne. The Barrington Clinic has two Nurse Practitioners, one Family Practice Nurse, with a Social Worker and Diabetes Educator visiting regularly.

### Lockeport Medical Centre Clinic patients

Reminder to patients of the Shelburne Family Practice and Barrington Clinic from the Lockeport area that they can access appointments at the Drs. Jim and Sterling Robbins Memorial Health Centre in Lockeport on Thursdays. These clinics are especially useful for those patients from Lockeport who may have transportation issues or trouble traveling to Shelburne or Barrington for appointments.



### **Mobile Primary Care Clinics in Shelburne County**

Mobile Primary Care Clinics have been regularly scheduled on most Saturdays, primarily at the Shelburne Health Centre with a clinic held once a month at the Barrington Community Health Clinic. As noted in previous reports, a majority of people seen at the Mobile Primary Care clinics are patients who are attached to a provider.

**90** patients seen – February

**123** patients seen – March

**80** patients seen – April

These schedules can change, so please check website for most up-to-date times/dates:

<https://www.nshealth.ca/mobileprimarycareclinics>

### **Roseway Hospital Site Update**

#### **Healthcare Career Day partnership a success**

The second annual *Healthcare Career Day* for students, in partnership with the Municipality of Shelburne and Employment Solutions, was held April 15 and can be considered a big success. Students came from Lockeport, North Queens, Barrington and Shelburne to participate and learn about the various healthcare careers available in the region. We look forward to having many of these students joining our team in the years ahead.



#### **Staffing Update**

We are pleased to welcome a new supernumerary (above core staffing) Licensed Practical Nurse who has been hired for the Emergency Department starting in June. The Emergency Department team will also welcome an experienced Registered Nurse (RN) from out of province who will start later in June.

Staff and patients are very appreciative of the contribution of another volunteer serving on the Medical/ALC unit. The work of our volunteers is so valued and continues to improve patient experience.

#### **Virtual Urgent Care expands scope and hours at Roseway Hospital**

Virtual Urgent Care now is able to offer some enhanced services with a slightly expanded scope which includes some nursing intervention, such as listening to chests, doing vitals, etc.

Since January, the service now accepts patients 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (patients registered for Virtual Urgent Care up to one hour before closing at 8 p.m.), even if the local emergency department is closed.

We are carefully tracking how patients access Virtual Urgent Care at Roseway and other sites and know there are opportunities to enhance public awareness of the service. We are working toward setting daily targets and with a goal to increase the number of patients seen through Virtual Urgent Care to 105 weekly across the zone. When this goal is met consistently, we will work to increase further.

Visit: <https://www.nshealth.ca/clinics-programs-and-services/virtual-urgent-care>

### **New equipment enhances patient care**

The new bedpan washers for the Medical Unit and Emergency Department have been installed. These upgrades will help improve patient care and overall hospital operations.

The safety and security of everyone at Roseway Hospital is always top priority. A new lockdown switch has been installed which can activate a facility lockdown in case of an external threat.

### **Roseway Hospital Emergency Department**

Nova Scotia Health is committed to continue to work towards 24/7 Emergency Department services at Roseway Hospital as resources allow. While we continue to recruit providers to reduce the number of emergency department closures, we have explored best practices to support and supplement our existing hours of operation.

As noted in the last Community Update, there has been much discussion and consultation on the right model to provide an additional access point for patients to receive care. We are now planning to implement a Same Day Clinic, led primarily by a Nurse Practitioner in the coming months. The NP position has been posted with interviews starting soon.

The Same Day Clinic is intended to complement, not replace, emergency department services. It will operate during designated hours even when the emergency department is closed.

We want to thank our community partners for their advocacy as we explored additional access points along the continuum of care. We are grateful for our partners willingness to share information about healthcare access options with the communities they serve.

### **Shelburne Area Mental Health & Addictions Services update**

**Opioid Recovery Program** – We now have an in-person Nurse Practitioner supporting this weekly program on Tuesdays. The staff on-site at Roseway were previously supported by a physician virtually, which was greatly appreciated, but the in-person NP is a wonderful new addition.

**Recovery Support Centre** – We are looking at providing some Recovery Support assessments and possibly groups in the area. We are working to finalize schedules to see what might work best, and hoping to confirm services by late June.

**Specialized Services for diverse needs** - Our team continues to offer specialized care for individuals with a variety of mental health conditions, including gender-affirming care, eating disorders, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), group therapy offerings, and diagnostics for Personality Disorders, ADHD, and Autism.

**Clinical Services in Clark's Harbour** – Clinical offerings in Clark's Harbour have been extended from 1-2 days a week to 3-4 days a week.

**Ongoing Psychiatric Support** - We continue to receive essential support in Shelburne from Dr. Ahmed, Adult Psychiatrist. Additionally, Dr. Gray provides specialized care for child and adolescent psychiatry, addressing the unique needs of younger individuals.

**Sustainable Pantry Program** – Community awareness is growing of our pantry program at the Shelburne and Clarks Harbour MH&A clinics, providing clients with non-perishable food items and personal care products at no cost. Financial donations can be made via the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation, with donations specifically earmarked for the MH&A Pantry program.

### [In the News – items of interest](#)

**Free shingles vaccine** - Nova Scotians aged 65 and older can now book a free Shingles vaccine by calling their primary health care provider or: <https://novascotia.ca/routinevaccine>  
For more information: <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/05/20/free-shingles-vaccine-available-month>

### **Recruitment Conference makes connections -**

Shelburne Nurse Practitioner Maria Ceschiutti joined other primary healthcare providers and Nova Scotia Health's recruitment team at the Pri-Med Conference in Toronto. They had fantastic conversations with primary care nurse practitioners, physicians, pharmacists, and physician assistants. (photo from [More than Medicine+](#))



### **Office of Healthcare Professionals**

**Recruitment (OHPR) Community Fund** - Congratulations to our community partners – including the Municipality of Barrington and Municipality of Shelburne - who have received support through the [OHPR Community Fund to help with local healthcare recruitment and retention initiatives.](#)

### **Other links of interest:**

- [Need a Family Practice Registry Update, May 2025](#)
- [Unmasking Mental Health: Boosting Mental Health Literacy](#)
- [5 Questions with Palliative Care Nurse Taylor Kerr](#)
- [Self-testing kits allow all Nova Scotians to screen for HIV, test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea](#)
- [Redefining care: Dr. Agnes Chinelo Iwegbu's new book on family and cultural advocacy](#)
- [Nova Scotia recruits 253 new doctors, a net gain of 187](#)

