



Shelburne Community Partners / Nova Scotia Health Update

December 2024

Primary Health Update

Recruitment Continues

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Michael Onwubuariri who joined the Shelburne Family Practice on October 1. Dr. Onwubuariri is working full time at the practice and is also providing hospitalist and coverage to support long term care patients in Shelburne.

The successful recruitment of Dr. Onwubuariri brings the number of family physicians at the Shelburne Family Practice to five. Thank you to our community partners and Nova Scotia Health recruitment team for helping to make him feel welcome.

New patients continue to be accepted by Shelburne Family Practice

A total of **614 patients** have been rostered to a nurse practitioner or family physician since last report:

94 new patients – September

220 new patients – October

300 new patients – November (up to Nov 28)

We expect the number of people on the Need a Family Practice Registry in Shelburne County will be significantly reduced in the coming months. Shelburne County continues to have the second lowest % of people on the [Need a Family Practice Registry](#) in Western Zone (10.4%), and is consistently among the lowest in N.S.

Well Women Clinics well utilized

The Well Women's Clinic held in Shelburne October 22 and a clinic is scheduled for Barrington December 3.

Clinics offer services such as pap tests, breast exams, contraceptive counselling, and sexual health care services for patients with or without a provider by appointment. Screening is completed by nurse prior to booking. Check the Shelburne Family Practice Facebook page for updates -OR- or call the clinic **902-875-2321**.

Mobile Primary Care Clinics continue to roll out in Shelburne County

Mobile Primary Care Clinics have been regularly held most Saturdays in Shelburne and once a month in Barrington. The Mobile Clinics have two nurse practitioners and two registered nurses providing care each clinic.

An average of 23.6 patients (range 15-34) have been seen at each clinic in September, October and November. The majority of people seen identified as someone with a family physician or nurse practitioner. Mobile Clinics are booked each Saturday in Shelburne throughout the rest of December. Note, schedule can change and you are encouraged to check the website for most up-to-date times/dates: <https://www.nshealth.ca/mobileprimarycareclinics>

Primary Care Clinics

Angelina Demings, Nurse Practitioner, provides Primary Care Clinic services for people in Shelburne County who do not have a regular family provider. She also provides the weekly clinic in Barrington or Clark's Harbour as part of the Care Clinic.

The Clark's Harbour Clinic has undergone renovations paid for by the Town of Clark's Harbour to create an additional clinical space for mental health & addictions to see patients.

Shelburne Primary Care Clinic visits:

- 123 visits in September
- 135 visits in October
- 139 visits in November (up to Nov. 28)

Clark's Harbour/Barrington location Clinic Visits (Mondays):

- 20 visits in September
- 23 visits in October
- 17 visits in November

Roseway Hospital Site Update

New Dialysis Unit announced

More people in Shelburne will receive dialysis treatment closer to home with the announcement of a new six-station dialysis unit coming to the Roseway Hospital site. The new unit will be built using a construction method called Design for Manufacture and Assembly. It is a design-intensive approach, which allows facilities to be constructed off-site and assembled on-site, reducing delays and unforeseen costs often associated with traditional construction methods. Construction will begin after a vendor is selected and detailed design is complete. See: [Province to Build New Dialysis Unit in Shelburne](https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2024/09/25/province-build-three-new-dialysis-units)
<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2024/09/25/province-build-three-new-dialysis-units>

Recruitment efforts paying off

Efforts to identify and recruit new staff is showing some signs of success. A number of new nursing staff have recently started, or will start at Roseway Hospital, including three registered nurses and a licensed practical nurse, with another RN interested in returning to the Shelburne area.

Roseway and Shelburne Community Healthcare Student Sponsorship Bursary Program

Members of the Students Sponsorship committee recently awarded a bursary to an Occupational Therapy Student who will start their career at Roseway Hospital. We have been looking forward to filling the Occupational Therapist positions for some time. We are excited to share this news, and information about the successful program applicant in the weeks ahead. Thank you to all our community partners, including the Roseway Hospital Foundation and Auxiliary who support this program.

Roseway Hospital Emergency Department

Emergency department closures continue, primary due to physician availability. Staff, physicians and zone and provincial leadership continue to work to reduce the number of closures. As the holiday season approaches, it is expected scheduling will continue to be challenged.

Virtual Urgent Care

Virtual Urgent Care continues to see good patient utilization since being launched at Roseway Hospital in May. 229 patients have received care through the Virtual Urgent Care service at Roseway Hospital since September.

Service is available from 11am to 7pm weekdays and 9am to 1pm on weekends, even if the local emergency department is closed during these times. Patients continue to report high satisfaction with the service. To learn more, visit: <https://www.nshealth.ca/clinics-programs-and-services/virtual-urgent-care>

Shelburne Area Mental Health & Addictions Services update

Comprehensive staffing and coverage - We are fully staffed with Clinical Therapists in Shelburne and Barrington/Clark's Harbour, ensuring that residents have access to essential mental health and addictions assessments and care across all age groups—children, adolescents, and adults.

Expanded 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, which reflects a significant increase in service availability. In addition, we now have a dedicated Mental Health & Addictions (MH&A) secretary who collaborates closely with Town Council to keep operations running smoothly at the new Clark's Harbour office.

Ongoing Psychiatric Support - We continue to receive essential support in Shelburne from Dr. Ahmed, an Adult Psychiatrist, who plays a critical role in supporting the mental health of adults in the community. Additionally, Dr. Gray provides specialized care for child and adolescent psychiatry, addressing the unique needs of younger individuals.

Sustainable Pantry Program – at Shelburne and Clark’s Harbour MH&A clinics. This program provides clients with access to nonperishable food items and personal care products. This is made possible through generous grants from community organizations. Anyone interested in supporting this program can donate via the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation, with donations specifically earmarked for the MH&A Pantry program.

Mental Health and Addictions Clubhouse Program – Launched in September in Yarmouth, this is a group learning and support program, which provides a safe environment for individuals in mental health and addiction recovery. Currently clients must travel to Yarmouth, but we are working to overcome transportation barriers. If transportation from Shelburne County is an issue, we provide gas cards or cover the cost of transportation.

Communications: “Shelburne in the news”

- Nova Scotia Health was pleased to share a post/story from the Municipality of Shelburne on our social media channels, and through our organizational newsletter Nova Scotia Health News (which reaches nearly 30,000 people across NS). The post featured some members of our Shelburne Family Practice team enjoying a sailing lesson in Shelburne recently.



- The Shelburne Family Practice recently welcomed new team member Torunn Gill, Social Worker.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1064610505056994&set=gm.1753653348771115&id=609491483187313>

- Nova Scotia Health regularly shares information on programs and services that are available to residents of Shelburne County:

[Upcoming mobile primary care clinics in western zone | Nova Scotia Health](#)
[Championing patient-centered solutions through VirtualCareNS | Nova Scotia Health](#)
[Finding strength and hope in life with type 1 diabetes | Nova Scotia Health](#)
[Bridging the Gap in Physician Retirements and Ensuring Patient Care | Nova Scotia Health](#)
[Nova Scotia Health's Early Mobility Program celebrates one year | Nova Scotia Health](#)
[Urgent Treatment Centre will increase access to care in Yarmouth | Nova Scotia Health](#)

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