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SASKATCHEWAN CANCER AGENCY

NEW SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT AND PALLIATIVE CARE CLINICS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Providing cancer patients with access to symptom management and palliative care just got a little easier with the availability of outpatient clinics at the Saskatoon Cancer Centre.

"It takes a team of dedicated individuals working together to ensure we are helping patients manage the symptoms that may be caused by cancer or treatments," Saskatchewan Cancer Agency CEO Scott Livingstone said. "The goal is to help improve the quality of life for patients and assist them in making informed decisions about their care both at home and in their own communities."

The clinics are offered weekly on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoon. A team which may include palliative care physicians from the health region, oncologists, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, family physicians and others can help patients address:

- Pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Shortness of breath
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Fatigue and weight loss
- Depression, delirium and emotional concerns

"This is a great opportunity for us to collaborate with our strategic partners in order to ensure that our joint patients have access to the medical specialists in symptom management and palliative care services," Dr. George Pylypchuk, Vice President Practitioner Staff Affairs, Saskatoon Health Region said.

While a referral is needed for an appointment at the clinic, anyone can make the request to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, including patients and family members as well as healthcare professionals. Patients do not have to be in active treatment or registered with a palliative care program to be seen in the clinics.

"Our hope is that patients and their families will be provided with seamless symptom management and palliative care support in our cancer centre and provided with access to programs in their own communities when possible," Livingstone said.

The clinics will be offered in Regina at the Allan Blair Cancer Centre in February 2014.

For more information visit www.saskcancer.ca.

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