MEMORANDUM

Date: March 22, 2020

To: All Rady Faculty of Health Sciences GFTs

From: Dr. Brock Wright and Dr. Brian Postl

Re: Specialists’ practice protocols

Dear Specialist Colleagues:

We are making a concerted effort to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 into rural and remote communities. Efforts have been made to limit non-essential itinerant specialist travel into communities. However, a risk to communities remains when patients travel back and forth to Winnipeg for medical visits.

At this point, all specialists must review their appointments for the next 3 to 6 months and determine which visits can be done via telephone or telehealth and which can be postponed. The remainder should be essential medical visits.

Our goal is to eliminate travel for in-person medical appointments for all patients, except those deemed absolutely necessary. For those necessary, please encourage travelling by private vehicle if from road accessible community and to follow social distancing and infection control precautions for those travelling by air. First Nations Inuit Health Branch has created interim policies for their medical transportation to allow for private vehicle reimbursement.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brock Wright, CEO, Shared Health and Provincial Lead, Health Services
Dr. Brian Postl, Dean, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences and Vice-Provost (Health Sciences), University of Manitoba