

## Elective: Community Health Sciences; Ongomiizwin Health Services (OHS) - Churchill

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\*Please indicate in the comments section of your application if you would also like to be considered for an elective in Norway House and the Fly-in program

### **ELECTIVE:**

Ongomiizwin Health Services, Northern/Remote Family Medicine, Churchill Health Centre, Churchill, Manitoba

### **OVERVIEW**

\*Elective duration is minimum 3 weeks, and will depend on availability.

\*A letter of motivation describing the reasons for applying for an elective with the Ongomiizwin Health Services focusing on providing care to Indigenous populations in a remote area is required (maximum 1 page, the same letter may be used for applications to all NMU sites).

This elective will provide an opportunity for students to experience full-spectrum clinical practice in a remote First Nations and Inuit community in Manitoba. Students will develop skills in history taking, physical exam, diagnosis and management of a broad spectrum of clinical presentations. Focus will be on management of clinical presentations in a remote setting, in the context of a First Nations and Inuit community in Manitoba. Particular attention will be paid to the Determinants of Health impacting on the health of individuals and the community, as well as structural factors (eg. policies) that impact on patient care. Clinic, ER, observer at pediatric dental surgery, personal care home, public health and homecare experiences will be part of the clinical experience, in addition there is potential for outreach clinics such as teen clinic at the schools, and working alongside specialist who visit to undertake specialty clinics in the community.

Churchill is a northern remote community on the Hudson Bay. It has a population of 900, which increases to 1200 during the Beluga and Polar Bear tourist season (June - Nov annually). There is no road access to Churchill. The airline Calm Air provides 2 flights daily from Winnipeg to Churchill, the later flies via Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. VIA rail comes to the community twice a week.

The community is comprised of 1/3 First Nations communities (Cree and Dene), 1/3 Inuit, and 1/3 Non-Indigenous. The Health Centre is the largest employer in town. It has a capacity of 25 inpatient beds and 7 long-term care beds. These beds include a delivery suite, a palliative care room and an isolation room. We also have a functioning Lab and X-ray where basic tests can be performed.

Traditionally, Churchill provided primary and secondary care to 7 communities in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut. With the opening of a hospital in Rankin Inlet in 2009, we now provide care to Churchill residents and visitors. The Health centre is under the auspices of the WRHA and, as such, we often facilitate the rehabilitation of Nunavut residents who require convalescence prior to returning to their home communities from Winnipeg hospitals.

Churchill health Centre has funding for 3 physicians. There are a core group of 6 physicians who work part time to achieve this EFT. As a result you will have the opportunity to experience several different practice styles.

### **CONTACTS:**

Amanda Abele  
Hospital Based Physician Coordinator  
J.A. Hildes Northern Medical Unit  
Amanda.Abele@umanitoba.ca  
(204) 789-3271

### **RESOURCES:**

Ongomiizwin Health Services website

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health\\_sciences/indigenous/institute/background.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/indigenous/institute/background.html)

Ongomiizwin Health Services Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/Ongomiizwin/?hc\\_ref=ARRrHk6bLRL3E1YAqT\\_Tpi-dJ40KPK97fXnw\\_6IVD9tsY9P\\_UQFXGVqbrz1nz98g8SA](https://www.facebook.com/Ongomiizwin/?hc_ref=ARRrHk6bLRL3E1YAqT_Tpi-dJ40KPK97fXnw_6IVD9tsY9P_UQFXGVqbrz1nz98g8SA)

[www.everythingchurchill.com](http://www.everythingchurchill.com)

[www.townofchurchill.ca](http://www.townofchurchill.ca)

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CanMEDS):**

#### Medical Expert

Develop skills in history taking and physical exam in a primary care and ER setting  
Formulate a broad differential diagnosis for clinical presentations  
Develop an organized case presentation including pertinent positive and negative findings appropriate for the clinical presentation  
Integrate understanding of the social determinants of health into patient encounters

#### Communicator

Communicate respectfully with all patients and staff  
Use a trauma-informed approach in all patient encounters  
Recognize the importance of relationships with individuals, organizations, communities and populations

#### Collaborator

Interact with all members of the healthcare team in a respectful manner, recognizing the importance of an interprofessional approach for optimal patient care

### Leader

Demonstrate commitment to providing high quality clinical care  
Allocate health resources appropriately based on needs of individual patients and the community  
Demonstrate effective self-management by conducting self-learning

### Health Advocate

Recognize the importance of the Social Determinants of Health, in particular, the distal determinants of health of colonialism and structural racism that continue to impact on the health of Indigenous communities in Canada  
Identify policies that impact on the health of individuals and a community and impact on patient care  
Recognize the strengths found in the community, and identify how students and physicians can support community-led initiatives that promote health

### Scholar

Use an evidence-based approach to the diagnosis and management of clinical presentations  
Complete a presentation during the elective rotation

### Professional

Demonstrate behaviors consistent with the service commitments outlined in the Northern Medical Unit Physician Charter; including cultural safety, listening, compassion, respect and humility

## **INFORMATION**

### Call responsibilities

Unlike other Northern communities, our ER volume is low. We rarely have evening clinics, and generally are not seeing patients after midnight unless it is a true emergency. As a result, the call expectation is a one-in-four rotation for 24 hr call. On the other days, the medical student will cover the ER and Clinic with the on-call physician from 9-5pm. If not rostered for a 24 hr call for a weekend day there is no expectation on the medical student to come to the health centre. We do, however, encourage the medical student to be open to come in if an interesting learning experience presents itself when the student is not on call.

### Cost

The flight bookings from Winnipeg to Churchill and arrangements for accommodations will be covered and arranged by the Ongomiizwin Health Services once the elective is confirmed.

### Prior to the elective

The OHS Hospital-Based Physician Coordinator will contact you with your flight details. You are also welcome to contact Dr Deirdre O’Flaherty, Chief of Medical Staff at Churchill Health Centre, if you have any questions. She can be contacted by email [doflaherty3@wrha-ch.ca](mailto:doflaherty3@wrha-ch.ca)

### First Day Instructions

Arrive at Winnipeg J.A. Richardson International Airport at least 1 hour before your flight. You can bring 3 pieces of luggage on this flight to a maximum of 120 lbs. Packing some fresh food and fruit is a good idea as the local stores have limited selection at higher prices than you would be accustomed to in urban communities.

On arrival in Churchill, there will be a maintenance worker from the Health Centre to meet you at the airport to bring you into town. If for some reason no one presents to meet you, please go to the Airline counter and request that the staff there call the health centre (204-675-8881) to let us know you have arrived.

The maintenance worker will give you your keys to your apartment and drop you off at the apartment, showing you the health centre on route. After dropping your belongings in your accommodation, please return to the health centre and check in at front desk, signposted “registration /health information service”. You will spend the first few hours after your arrival being orientated to the facility. You will begin the process of learning our EMR ‘Med Access’. On your first day, you will start work with the doctor on call for the afternoon clinic. There is no need to have a white coat for this rotation/elective.

## **ROTATION ACTIVITIES and EXPECTATIONS**

### Student Presentation

There is a requirement for completion of a presentation to the physician team and other learners on a topic of choice (approximately 30 minute presentation). The presentation will be towards the end of the elective, with the date determined by the Education Director and communicated to the student early in the elective rotation.

### In-patient rounds

These rounds occur every Monday and Friday at 9:15 am on the Unit. Students will be expected to present the in-patients they are involved with to the multidisciplinary team.

### Weekday Huddle

This occurs every weekday at 8.45am in the clinic library. It involves the clinic staff, community wellness staff, and physicians. We briefly discuss any issues from the previous clinic and review the clinic patients for the day ahead. We also follow up on patients who were ‘no shows’ the day prior.

### Teaching rounds

There are no formal teaching rounds, however each day you will work with the on call physician to see their patients and will liaise before and after the patient encounter. There will be ample opportunity for learning.

### Additional Expectations

We do a mock code blue every Thursday at 10am. The learner will be given the opportunity to run that code with the medical team supporting the learner.

On alternate Wednesdays we do Longterm Care or Mental Health rounds. The clinic staff will tell you which rounds is happening and where to go for it.

### **EVALUATIONS**

A verbal mid-point evaluation will be provided by your designated physician, based on feedback from the multidisciplinary staff in Churchill (physicians, nurses, clinical support staff, and administrative staff). A final verbal and written evaluation will be provided at the end of the rotation.

There are several things to do in Churchill while you visit. Dog sledding, kayaking/canoeing with the beluga whales, ATV-ing and skiddoing, viewing the Northern lights, and bird watching. The town complex had a hockey arena, a swimming pool, a gym , a theatre and bowling alley. Nominal fees are associated with the use of some Town facilities. There are several historical places to visit. Please bring the appropriate clothing as winters are harsh, and a light parka may be required even through the summer months. The threat of polar bear attack is real, especially from July through December. Please listen to the local staff when they advise on bear movements. Do not roam the back lanes of Churchill at night, and be aware of your surroundings.

### **REQUIRED READING**

Ongomiizwin Health Services Physician Charter

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWVpbnxzaXRlbn11fGd4OjNkNmE2YzEyODgwOTNiMA>

Health and Health Care Implications of Systemic Racism on Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Indigenous Health Working Group Fact Sheet, College of Family Physicians of Canada. February 29th, 2016.

[http://www.cfpc.ca/systemic\\_racism/](http://www.cfpc.ca/systemic_racism/)

Loppie Reading C, Wien F. Health Inequalities and Social Determinants of Aboriginal Peoples' Health. National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2009.

[http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/docs/social%20determinates/nccah-loppie-wien\\_report.pdf](http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/docs/social%20determinates/nccah-loppie-wien_report.pdf)