

Dear Patients:

This is an updated note 3 months before my retirement date in February 2024.

Our challenges are ongoing at WCFP as we continue to struggle with recruitment of new doctors to replace a number of our physicians retiring in the upcoming months. I have personally looked for a full 2 years without any success for a replacement to take over my practice. Although payment for physician time invested in Family Medicine has definitely improved, it has not yet changed the manpower situation.

As stated in my last email, WCFP has lost 4 physicians in the past 2 years, either to retirement or for personal reasons. We have been successful in replacing only two of these physicians. Although we believed we had secured replacements for the other 2 physicians, both of those arrangements unexpectedly fell through at the last minute. In both cases the new physicians balked at the amount of work required to provide ongoing care for an established group of patients. Because these arrangements did not work out, over 2000 patients ended up being without a family doctor.

It is important to understand that patients are attached to individual doctors, and not the clinic. What this means is that if your doctor is no longer working at WCFP, then you are no longer a patient of the clinic.

The remaining physicians at WCFP have full time practices and do not have the capacity to take on "orphaned" patients. Please do not ask if they are able to take on you or your family. We understand that this is a very difficult situation for you but it is also incredibly distressing to the remaining doctors and staff who wish they had the ability to care for you.

My plan is to retire on February 2, 2024. By that time I will have been in Family Practice for 43 years (36 of them at Wilson Centre Family Practice). As stated above, when I retire from the WCFP, you will no longer be considered a patient of the clinic. I am hoping that many of you have already found a new physician or will be reattached shortly, with the timeline given to you for February 2024. If you have not applied for reattachment, please go to <https://pathwaysmedcialcare.ca/> and do this ASAP!

If you have found another doctor, I am very happy to provide a summary of your medical records on a CD, if you sign a consent for your records to be transferred. With the time constraints encroaching, you are encouraged to establish yourself with your new physician as soon as possible.

I would ask that you be respectful of not only our time, but also the burden that we are still all carrying here at WCFP and that you are kind and respectful to our staff as well, as our clinic would not run without them.

Although we are all faced with significant challenges, it has been a great privilege to provide care to you, my patients for the past 36 years.

Sincerely,

Angela Cullen