Heart Function Clinic

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Starting in February, as part of the new ambulatory cardiac clinics at RCH, the Heart Function Clinic (HFC) will begin seeing patients. The HFC hub is part of a provincial strategy to improve heart failure care and is being opened at RCH to augment current access to cardiology services.

The provincial hubs of care are designed to service a subset of patients who require specialized cardiology care. These are patients who are likely to benefit from multidisciplinary intensive interventions that can provide close follow-up, monitoring and self-management support. Over the next several months, we will work to further define this subset of patients in collaboration with all of our partners are RCH.

Upon referral, a triage phone call would be made, and the patient booked for education and consultation. Patients referred, who have a prior history or relationship with cardiac services, would have their regular cardiologist contacted to discuss the referral and objectives. Patient care will be conducted using a collaborative practice model similar to other clinics across Canada.

The clinic is staffed Monday to Friday and the team includes a cardiologist, nurse practitioner, nurse clinician, pharmacist and dietitian. Our goal is to provide access to care within the national benchmarks. Patients will be followed until their condition stabilizes, they are on evidence based therapies and they have been provided with opportunities to learn self-management strategies. The clinic is designed for intensive intervention rather than longitudinal care. Patients may also be referred for education only. These patients will be seen by the team members to support their capacity for self-management. They will not routinely be seen by a cardiologist.

Currently, referrals are paper-based. Order entry is being designed for both the atrial fibrillation clinic and the heart function clinic. Notification will be posted when this is available. Please contact the clinic for a referral form.

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