

Sussex and area community health care update

March 28, 2025

Horizon remains committed to working closely with Sussex and area community members, key stakeholders, and valued partners to strengthen and expand access to health care services in Sussex area. Through ongoing collaboration and strategic investments, we are focused on enhancing the delivery of patient-centred care and ensuring that patients and families receive the health care they need.

Sussex Health Centre (SHC)

Physician recruitment

A new physician, will be joining the Emergency Department team at SHC, beginning May 5, 2025.

Physician recruitment continues for the whole Saint John area, which encompasses Saint John and its surrounding rural sites (Charlotte Country Hospital, Grand Manan Hospital and Sussex Health Centre). The Talent Acquisition team continues to recruit locally, nationally, and internationally.

Nursing recruitment

Ensuring a strong and sustainable health care workforce remains a priority as we continue to enhance staffing capacity. One permanent full-time position will be filled by the employee returning on April 2. Additionally, a part-time permanent position and a part-time temporary position have been posted, supporting ongoing efforts to maintain high-quality patient care.

Fostering the next generation of health care professionals begins with hands-on learning opportunities that bridge education and practice. In May 2025, SHC will welcome four Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) preceptorship students, providing them with valuable clinical experience.

Additionally, preparations are underway to support incoming [Student Nurse Advancement Pledge](#)* (SNAP) students, with five students already expressing interest in completing their training at SHC.

It's worth noting, three SNAP students from 2024 have chosen to remain in Sussex in casual positions outside of the program, demonstrating the success of this initiative in retaining skilled nursing talent at Horizon.

** The SNAP program provides BScN/BN and Practical Nursing students with a seamless transition from student to nurse.*

Retention

Hosted by the Culture and Wellbeing team, the Horizon Family and Friends Skate Day took place on Monday, Feb. 17. This Family Day event was a chance for Horizon staff to have fun and enjoy time with friends and family.

Facility news

Renovations were completed to the central supply room, the public washrooms in the Emergency Department, a couple of patient rooms, and the Medical Device Reprocessing Department received a new sterilizer.

The Ergotron Project in the Operating Room involved the installation of computers, monitors, and peripherals to support the new Pisces program. The Pisces program allows for real time paperless charting for the OR staff.

Finally, beautiful murals were painted by Robin Bradshaw and Fred Harrison in the east wing's kitchenette and the patient lounge in the south wing.

Primary Health Care

Recruitment

We continue to prioritize investments in the recruitment of allied health professionals to strengthen primary health care services. As part of this effort, we have recently hired a Registered Nurse, LPN and Social Worker and are currently working within our Primary Health Care Center.

The Family Health Team transition

Family Health Teams are a group of different health care workers (physiotherapist, respiratory therapist, social worker, dietitian, etc) who care for patients and their families together. They support one another to provide the best care, and they ensure people get the right health care, from the right provider, at the right time.

The Family Health Team is a familiar concept at the Sussex Health Services Complex. We are actively working to strengthen this, with space planning underway to optimize the clinical environment. These efforts will ensure the facility supports a collaborative practice model that enhances both patient care and provider efficiency.