

**PRACTICE CLOSURE NOTIFICATION**

**December 20, 2022**

Dear Colleague,

You are receiving this letter as you are registered as an active patient of Dr. Laura Baxter, who provides general neurology, acute neurology clinic, and multiple sclerosis clinic subspecialty care in Nanaimo, BC.

**Please be aware that I, Dr. Laura Baxter, will be closing my Nanaimo-based neurology practice, effective March 31, 2023.** Outpatient clinics will continue until mid-March, 2023, with urgent care until the end of the month. After March 31, 2023, I will no longer be providing neurology care in British Columbia. Although a replacement has not yet been secured, recruitment efforts are ongoing.

Nanaimo MS Clinic: There is no current plan to close the Nanaimo MS clinic. Until a replacement practitioner is recruited, patients who have very active disease, significant medical vulnerability, and/or are receiving treatments that require a MS subspecialist prescriber (MS disease modifying therapies) will be prioritized for temporary placement with another MS neurologist before my departure. Clerical and nursing operations will continue in the Nanaimo MS clinic. However, until further notice, the Nanaimo MS clinic will no longer be accepting new patient referrals. The Victoria and UBC MS clinics continue to accept referrals.

NRGH Acute Neurology Clinic: This clinic only accepts direct referrals from nearby emergency departments and urgent care facilities. There is no active plan to close the NRGH Acute Neurology Clinic. Plans are underway to transition clinic operations to another neurology colleague. Although every effort is being made to minimize disruptions, there may be temporary delays in clinic bookings during this transition. Every effort will be made to follow up on investigation and management of my patients in this clinic before I leave. Medically vulnerable and active patients will be prioritized for referral to another neurologist, although not all patients will be placed with another neurologist before my departure.

Community Neurology Clinic (Coastal Rehabilitation & Neurodiagnostics): There is no anticipated neurologist replacement for my community practice. Medically vulnerable patients, particularly those without a family physician, will be prioritized for placement with another neurologist. Other patients can seek referral to another neurologist via primary care. In Nanaimo: Drs. Kulkarni and SuttonBrown, in Comox: Dr. Boulton, and of course many neurologists in Victoria and Vancouver.

For headache patients:

- Treated with Aimovig and Emgality, these medications can be prescribed by any neurologist or headache specialist.
- Treated with Ajoovy (covered by pharmacare), I do not believe a specialist prescriber is required by pharmacare
- Receiving PREEMPT Botox, must be done by trained provider. Drs. Kulkarni, Zaki, and Davidson in Nanaimo. Dr. Boulton in Comox. Drs Daws and Burry in Courtenay. Several other neurologists and physiatrists in Victoria and Vancouver.

Sincerely, Dr. Laura Baxter MD, FRCPC -Neurology