

April 30, 2010

Surgeries to continue as AHS intervenes to request receiver for Health Resource Centre

CALGARY – Alberta Health Services filed an application in Court of Queen’s Bench today to have an interim receiver appointed in respect of the operations of the Health Resource Centre (HRC).

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is moving to protect the interests of patients during bankruptcy proceedings in an ongoing legal dispute between Network Health Inc., which owns HRC, and one of its creditors. AHS asked the Court to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. (PwC) as the interim receiver for Network Health Inc.

If approved by the Court, the application will ensure that hip and knee surgeries scheduled at HRC continue while AHS opens new operating rooms.

“Our paramount concern is that patients are not disadvantaged by HRC’s legal and financial issues,” said Dr. Stephen Duckett, AHS President and Chief Executive Officer. “PwC and HRC are committed to working with us to ensure surgeries continue as planned and there is a smooth transition.” AHS has met with PwC and will work to ensure patient care is not disrupted.

Pursuant to an agreement signed in 2006 between HRC and the former Calgary Health Region, HRC provides publicly funded hip, knee, foot and ankle surgeries.

One of HRC’s creditors has taken legal steps that could result in HRC’s bankruptcy. In court documents filed today, Alberta Health Services requests that PwC be appointed immediately, and also asks the Court to stay the bankruptcy application against HRC. As interim receiver, PwC would supervise the facility through 2010, allowing all scheduled surgeries to proceed.

In 2009/10, about 1,000 surgeries were performed at HRC, including approximately one-third of all hip and knee surgeries performed in Calgary. Historically, HRC has performed approximately 900 hip and knee surgeries annually.

By early winter, AHS will be in a position to open eight additional operating rooms in the new McCaig Tower.

Patients currently scheduled for surgeries at HRC may contact AHS Patient Services Healthlink at 403-943-5465(LINK) or 1-866-408-5465 for more information. Please note that surgeries outside the Calgary area are not affected.

Alberta Health Services is the publicly-funded provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than 3.7 million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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