



MEDICAL SERVICES

Weeneebayko General Hospital in Moose Factory is the regional health care facility for the west coast of James Bay serving a catchment population of approximately 11,000 residents in six remote communities. It has 37 acute care beds, some of which are utilized in providing alternate level of care services as there are no long term care facilities in the James Bay region. We serve all age groups from neonates to the elderly who require hospital admission. Weeneebayko General Hospital averages 1,500 admissions per annum.

WAHA also provides in and out-patient care in Fort Albany and Attawapiskat and outpatient services in Moosonee. Weeneebayko physicians provide medical care to these sites. Several beds at each site are reserved for acute admissions requiring straight forward in-patient care, in-patient observation or while awaiting transfer to Weeneebayko.

There are approximately 150 deliveries per year at Weeneebayko. Prenatal care is carried out in out-patient clinics and nursing stations by both physicians and nurse practitioners. Obstetrical consultation is available from both visiting obstetricians from Kingston General Hospital and Timmins and District Hospital as well as telephone consultations. Additionally, approximately 30 – 40 patients per year from the region are transferred to Timmins or Kingston for their peripartum care as they present too high a risk to be cared for in Moose Factory. Occasionally a physician must accompany a medevac to a nursing station to deliver a baby at one of the remote locations and return with the patients to Weeneebayko.

The family physicians are supported by the presence of full time anesthesia and surgical service. These services require 24/7 on-call rotations due to emergency room and obstetrical services. There is one operating room at WGH which functions five days a week for elective surgery and 24/7 for emergency surgery.

The surgeon holds regular scheduled clinics, provides elective surgery service and provides emergency consultation and surgical services to the emergency room, in-patient department and obstetrical services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

The anesthetist covers the elective general surgery, dental OR lists and specialist surgery provided by visiting consultants, five days a week and is on call for support and back up to the OR, ER, in-patient unit, obstetrics (i.e. including c-sections, epidurals, neonatal resuscitation) for consultations and assistance in the case of critically ill patients.

Emergency on call services are based at Weeneebayko General Hospital and area offered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The on call ER physician covers the ER unit, obstetrical services, neonatal resuscitation and telephone consultation service to the nurses working in the five other communities in the Mushkegowuk Territory. There are approximately 8,000 phone consultations per year received from nurses working in the clinics, hospital wings and nursing stations of other communities.

Out patient clinics are held daily in the Family Medicine Clinic at WGH, the Moosonee Health Centre, at the coastal nursing stations and at the James Bay General wings as physician coverage allows.

Over 50% of the region's population lives in 4 very remote communities along the James Bay Coast. These are accessible by air transportation only. Regular weekly or bi-weekly physician visits to community nursing stations are an important part of health care delivery in the region.

Supplementing the care provided by the full time medical staff, many specialty services are provided on-site on a periodic basis by visiting specialists from Queen's, McMaster and Western Universities. These specialists provide out-patient consultation clinics and perform diagnostic procedures and surgery. Dental services are provided in most of our communities by dentists employed by WAHA. WAHA is a teaching facility with relationships with multiple accredited Medical, Nursing and Dental Schools. WAHA averages 5 Residents and Medical students at all times throughout the year.

The specialty services provided include: ophthalmology, ENT, gynecology including colposcopy, urology, nephrology, neurology, internal medicine, rheumatology, orthopedics, general pediatrics, developmental pediatrics, pediatric cardiology, cardiology, echocardiogram, psychiatry and obstetrics.