



Important notice for Dr. Donovan's patient

As you likely know, all of us at Mille Lacs Health System are devastated by the sudden loss of our colleague and friend Dr. Cathy Donovan. She lost her life tragically from a hit and run accident on Monday November 13th. As much as we are focused this week on our grieving and in tending to the family and friends that she left behind, we also need to continue the care she so well provided for all of you.

First, be assured that we will be able to provide you with ongoing medical care in the future. We have an ample supply of Family Medicine providers, and you will be able to continue your care in the clinic you have preferred for your medical care.

Another concern may be your ongoing prescriptions. Pharmacies will not be able to legally refill Dr. Donovan's prescriptions requested 30 days after her passing which will be as of December 13th, 2023. We want to reassure you that we will be able to keep your medications refilled.

For those of you who saw her within the last year and thus anticipate having your medications refilled for the next year, we are taking steps to ensure that happens. We will work with local pharmacies, and the most used mail order pharmacies, to make sure they are aware of this situation and will continue to send refill requests to us. We will route those refill requests to one of our providers here.

However, it will not be possible to anticipate every possible problem with this system; if you are not getting a response from your pharmacy with a refill request, simply contact us and we will work to get your refill processed. Please call us at 320-532-3154.

Chronic Opioid Analgesic Treatment (COAT) patients that have been established with Dr. Donovan within our pain program and certified in the last three months will continue to be taken care of. We will honor your recent attendance for your COAT visit and fill your medications. However, you will need to establish care with a new provider within three months of your last COAT visit.

Here are the providers that will be available to you at our five Family Medicine clinics.

In Onamia: Dr. Patti Hook, Dr. Arden Virnig, Dr. Ryan Fox, Dr. Rebecca Muwanse, Josh Kruize PA, Charles Ruegemer PA, Melissa Walker RNP and Alejandra Soto PA

In Isle: Dr. Patti Hook, Dr. Rebecca Muwanse, Charles Ruegemer PA and Melissa Walker RNP

In Garrison: Dr. Arden Virnig and Melissa Walker RNP

In Hillman: Dr. Fahad Khemani and Melissa Walker RNP

In Milaca: Dr. Ryan Fox, Dr. Fahad Khemani, Dr. Rebecca Muwanse, Charles Ruegemer PA and Alejandra Soto PA

On behalf of all Mille Lacs Health System providers, best regards. Thanks for your understanding.