



October 5, 2022

Dear Patient,

This letter is written to update you on the status of my medical practice. As you may be aware, I have been away from my office for over a year due to health reasons. It has been a long and trying year for myself and my family. While I have made progress with my treatment, I am not able to return to work in my medical practice.

I wish to let you know that, after almost 33 years of practicing family medicine in Pickering, I have made the very difficult decision to close my medical practice.

Over this past year, I was fortunate to find a physician to temporarily cover my practice. However, as of October 17, 2022, she will no longer be covering my medical practice. Despite my efforts to find a permanent replacement, I have not found a family doctor to take over my practice. My physician colleagues in the West Durham Family Health Team have full medical practices and are not able to take over my patient roster. As a result, I have no choice but to close my practice.

I will be officially closing my practice on December 31st. Between October 18 and December 31, 2022, the nurse practitioners affiliated with the West Durham Family Health Team will be available to deal with any urgent medical issues that may arise. Prescriptions can also be renewed until that time. After December 31, 2022 my practice is closed and you will need to receive your medical care elsewhere.

I realize that closing my medical practice may create uncertainty and worry, especially for those with chronic medical conditions or facing difficult health issues like myself. I would suggest that you immediately look for another physician in your community. Health Care Connect is a service provided to Ontario residents to help find a new family doctor. You can contact them at 1-800-445-1822 or online at ontario.ca/healthcareconnect.

If you would like a copy of your medical records, please contact our office at (905) 420-9999. Records can be provided to you or your new health care provider for \$25 per person or \$50 per family.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at #905-420-9999 ext. 2422 and speak with my assistant Pam.

It has been both a pleasure and privilege to have been a part of your lives for the past 33 years. I thank you for being part of my practice and I wish you and your family the very best in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Howard Petroff MD, CCFP (EM), FCFP

