



A virtual team for primary care providers

## July 2025 Newsletter

### Niagara Health Urgent Care Centres Summer Hours Update

The Fort Erie Urgent Care Centre (UCC) will now be open tomorrow, Tuesday, July 1 and throughout the Labour Day long weekend from August 30 to September 1.

The Port Colborne UCC will remain closed tomorrow, Tuesday, July 1.

All other [previously announced summer hours](#) remain unchanged.

This remains a dynamic situation due to ongoing physician staffing challenges in our Emergency Departments and UCCs. Thank you for your continued collaboration and support.

**Learn  
more**

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### Fluoroscopy Suite Upgrade: Impact on VFSA Referrals

The fluoroscopy suite at the Marotta Family Hospital will be undergoing upgrading starting Aug. 8 until Oct. 17, 2025, impacting our ability to complete Video Fluoroscopic Swallowing Assessments (VFSA), also known as cookie swallows or video swallow tests.

Referrals are still being accepted; however, please be advised that our current wait list will be extended. **If a patient requires an urgent video swallow, please contact the department at 905-378-4647 ext. 46270.**

Urgent VFSA referrals may include patients with the following acute dysphagia symptoms:

- Active coughing or choking when eating or drinking; shortness of breath
- Recurrent pneumonia requiring hospital admission
- History of neuromotor disorder or cerebrovascular accident (CVA) with significant decline in swallowing function
- Difficulty managing at home due to acute dysphagia and inability to meet nutritional needs
- Significant weight loss related to declining oropharyngeal swallow function

**Please note:** Swallowing difficulties that appear primarily esophageal in nature will not be prioritized during this period. For these cases, please consider referring to Gastroenterology for an initial assessment.

Referrals for VFSA are distributed to our three hospitals in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland based on the patient's geographic location. Please submit only one referral per patient.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Murray, Clinical Manager, Professional Practice at [Shannon.Murray@niagarahealth.on.ca](mailto:Shannon.Murray@niagarahealth.on.ca) or by calling 905-378-4647 ext. 43674.

Thank you for your understanding and continued cooperation.

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## New Centralized Booking Process for Nuclear Medicine at Niagara Health

To help streamline the booking process for Nuclear Medicine exams, Medical Imaging at Niagara Health is transitioning to a regional booking solution.

Effective immediately, **please fax all Nuclear Medicine requisitions to the Marotta Family Hospital Central Booking Office at 905-323-7560**. Only one requisition should be submitted per patient.

Our team will schedule the next available appointment at the most appropriate Niagara Health site, based on clinical need and availability.

To support timely communication with patients, please ensure their updated phone number is clearly included on the requisition.

Thank you for your cooperation with this important change, which will help reduce booking turnaround times and improve the patient experience across Niagara Health.

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## Niagara Health CT Scanners Replacement Project: Town Hall Recording

Thank you for taking the time to join our Town Hall on Niagara Health's CT Scanner Upgrade Project. **For those unable to attend, a recording of the session is available [here](#)**.

This project is a major investment in our diagnostic imaging capacity – bringing the most advanced CT technology in Canada to Niagara. Your collaboration is essential in helping us maintain access to timely, high-quality care.

We'll continue to keep you informed as work progresses. If you have questions please contact the SCOPE Niagara team at [SCOPENiagara@niagarahealth.on.ca](mailto:SCOPENiagara@niagarahealth.on.ca).

Thank you for your continued collaboration.

**Watch the recording**

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## SCOPE Niagara turns three: Supporting care one call at a time

Dr. Nikki Reklitis remembers the case clearly. A patient who needed urgent care, but didn't quite meet the threshold for an immediate trip to the Emergency Department (ED). Instead of sending the patient to wait in a busy ED, Dr. Reklitis called SCOPE Niagara.



**Read the full story**

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**Visit the Primary Care Provider webpage for ongoing updates**

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**SCOPE Niagara is a partnership between Niagara Health, Niagara Practitioners Healthcare Alliance and Home and Community Care - as part of the Niagara Ontario Health Team.**

**Visit the SCOPE Niagara website**

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**HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE  
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### **Regular Hours of Operation**

Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Contact Information**

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