

niagarahealth



Honouring Indigenous Identity

VOLUNTARY

**SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR
INDIGENOUS PATIENTS**

Why Self-Identify?

Your health is important. To better serve the Indigenous (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) populations in Niagara region, **Niagara Health has implemented a voluntary self-identification process for Indigenous patients accessing care within our hospital system.** It is our goal to better understand who our patients are, how their needs may differ, and how we can do things differently.

All patients coming into the hospital upon registration will be asked the question:

“Do you Identify as First Nation, Metis, or Inuit?”

By implementing this process, our goals are:

- To ensure Indigenous patients and their families receive timely support from the Indigenous Health Services and Reconciliation (IHSR) team
- To help us better understand and meet the needs of our communities
- To improve the quality of care and enhance Indigenous patient experience at Niagara Health

**Please consider voluntary self-identification
if you identify as:**

Indigenous

Having Indigenous ancestry

First Nation, Metis or Inuit

Treaty Indian

Aboriginal

Native

Respect for privacy and confidentiality

All information is completely confidential. When collecting, using, disclosing, accessing or sharing personal health information, our staff and medical professionals are governed and protected by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Niagara Health uses a voluntary self-identification process at registration. All patients will be asked if they identify as First Nations, Metis or Inuit. Patients that identify will be given an opportunity to be connected to the IHSR team. Depending on what services you are accessing at Niagara Health, you may be asked if you would like to consent to the IHSR team being notified of your visit.

Across all Niagara Health sites, the IHSR team can:

- Provide patient advocacy
- Work with health care providers to support your decisions with care planning
- Provide access to traditional ceremonies and medicines
- Enhance communication between patients, families and the healthcare team
- Connect you with wrap-around community support
- Support pathways for palliative care supports
- Provide access to Indigenous community spaces

First Nations (Status / Non-Status):

Status or proof of identity is not required.

First Nations specifically describes Indigenous individuals and communities who are neither Inuit nor Métis, representing over 630 distinct communities and more than 50 cultural nations across the country.

Status refers to individuals who are registered under the Indian Act who identify with a First Nation community and proof of ancestry (status card holder). Non-Status refers to individuals who identify with a First Nation community and ancestry but are not registered under the Indian Act.

Métis

The Métis are a distinct Indigenous people with a unique history, culture, language, and way of life. People who identify as Métis have historic Métis Nation Ancestry and are accepted by the Métis Nation.

Inuit

Inuit refers to individuals that identify as Indigenous whose homeland is the Canadian Arctic, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Northern Quebec and Labrador.

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Extraordinary Caring. Every Person. Every Time.

Ways to Self-Identify and Connect with the IHSR team



At registration,
provide consent
to the IHSR team
being notified of
your visit



Ask a member of
your care team for a
referral to the IHSR
team at any time
during your stay



Send a self-
referral to
the team on
the website

We want to hear from you!

We encourage you to contact the Office of Patient Experience should you have any compliments, comments, concerns or suggestions regarding Niagara Health services. The Indigenous Patient Relations Specialist can support patients and their families with safer sharing practices, including Elders and traditional medicines as requested.

Office of Patient Experience

 905-378-4647 x44423

 NHPatientExperience@niagarahealth.on.ca

If you have any concerns please reach out to Jessica Baskin, Indigenous Patient Relations Specialist:

 905-378-4647 x29376

 Jessica.Baskin@niagarahealth.on.ca

Learn more at

NiagaraHealth.on.ca/IHSR

