



# STANTON YELLOWKNIFE HOSPITAL

## PRESS RELEASE - ABORTION ISSUE

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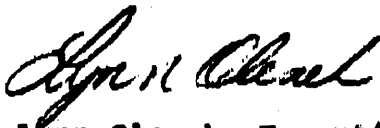
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1. SYH provides therapeutic abortions as part of its service mandate. The procedure is performed by qualified medical practitioners with support from appropriate professional personnel.
2. The procedure is performed at the patient's request in accordance with commonly practiced national medical standards.
3. All patients requesting this procedure are counselled in regards to the procedure. All patients are informed by the physician and nursing staff that the procedure is performed without a general anaesthetic.
4. Patients are offered pain relieving medication prior, during and following the procedure. Furthermore, undergoing a general anaesthesia increases the risk of the patient hemorrhaging (bleeding), infection, perforation, respiratory incidents and increases the recovery time.
5. General anaesthetic is used for specific circumstances such as a young patient, the severely emotionally distraught patient, when the pregnancy is in the latter part of the first trimester or when another medical procedure is being performed at the same time.
6. SYH recognizes the emotional and psychological impact of this procedure. Hence the delivery of a common patient teaching program in which all patients participate preceding this procedure. Every attempt is made to prepare the patient for this procedure. Patients are informed there will be discomfort initially at the beginning of the procedure. Pain medication is given before the procedure as well as during the procedure if required and following the procedure. Female staff are present with the patient for extra emotional support.

7. Every patient receives a patient satisfaction questionnaire where they are encouraged to express their views and/or concerns regarding any aspect of their care. These surveys are reviewed ongoing by the Surgical Unit. To date the most consistent concern expressed has been the difficulty patients outside of Yellowknife have in accessing the service.
8. SYH is distressed that the NWT Status of Women has indicated they have had complaints and have not brought these to the attention of the facility in order that we could have collectively worked toward a resolution.



Lynn Olenek, Executive Director

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