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STANTON YELLOWKNIFE HOSPITAL

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PRESS RELEASE #2 - ABORTION ISSUE

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1. All patients requesting therapeutic abortions at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital first receive counselling from the attending surgeon and the nursing staff in regards to the procedure. They are informed by the physician and nursing staff that the procedure is performed without a general anaesthetic and the reasons why this is the standard of care are explained. All patients sign a consent prior to the procedure.
2. Patients are offered pain relieving medication prior to, during and following the procedure. General anaesthesia is not part of the standard of care for therapeutic abortions as established by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.
3. Stanton Yellowknife Hospital 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 initial discomfort. 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.
4. 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 through an ongoing process which is reported to the Board of Management. To date there has been no indication of a problem with pain control being identified by patients who have undergone this procedure.
5. Stanton Yellowknife Hospital is open at all times and welcomes input from its patients about the care they receive at the facility. This issue is sensitive and involves confidential patient information; accordingly, the Board of Management does not wish to engage in a media debate on this matter.

  
Lynn Olenek  
Executive Director

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