

# **R**EPORT **T**O **A**LBERTANS

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## **Deputy Minister's Rationale for Approval of Contracts under the *Health Care Protection Act***

**Surgical Service:**      **Uninsured Orthopedic  
Surgical Services**

**Facility:**                **Health Resource Centre,  
Calgary**

**Effective Date:**        **April 1, 2006**

## **Deputy Minister's Message:**

I am pleased to present my rationale for approving an extension to Health Resource Centre-Calgary (HRC) existing approval and designation for providing uninsured orthopedic surgical services under the *Health Care Protection Act* (HCPA).

Albertans can be confident that the extension meets all legislated and regulatory requirements, and protects the public delivery of uninsured and insured health services.

*Paddy Meade  
Deputy Minister  
Alberta Health and Wellness*

## **Executive Summary:**

**Proposal:** HRC's approval and designation for the provision of uninsured surgical services expires March 31, 2006. HRC submitted a proposal for designation renewal. Discussion with HRC has resulted in the need to resubmit the proposal with additional details regarding types of procedures performed.

The facility is accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. The scope of work in the extension involves orthopedic surgical procedures specific to the provision of uninsured surgical services. Uninsured surgical services are services provided to persons whose health care is paid for by Workers' Compensation Board (on behalf of WCB clients), by the federal government (on behalf of RCMP and armed forces members) and out-of-country residents.

The facility has a sufficient number of qualified and appropriately trained staff to manage the volume of work. There is no negative impact on the health workforce available to service the needs of the public health sector. The physicians have proven qualifications and experience in the provision of these surgical services. Physicians are accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta to perform the orthopedic procedures.

**Assessment Summary:** Alberta Health and Wellness supports the need for an extension to HRC's existing designation. An extension to the existing approval provides HRC with time to consult with their stakeholders to ensure their designation renewal proposal accurately reflects the services they are accredited to perform.

**Compliance:** I am satisfied that this extension meets the requirements of the Health Care Protection Act, provides a public benefit, and shows no adverse impact on our public health system or our ability to comply with the *Canada Health Act*.

**Public Benefit:** The provision of uninsured orthopedic surgical procedures at HRC reduces the number of these procedures that would be performed in the public health sector. The public health system benefits by providing increased operating room time in the public sector. This is important as it allows the major centers in the Region to concentrate on other services to better serve the needs of Albertans.