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Interior Health expands infectious disease services at Kelowna General Hospital

KELOWNA – Patients with infections requiring intravenous (IV) antibiotic treatment can now receive care at a new outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) clinic at Kelowna General Hospital. The clinic, which opened in February, is located on the second floor of the Dr. Walter Anderson Building at KGH and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

“Our health-care teams are always looking at ways to improve services and have more patient-centred care,” said Interior Health president and CEO Susan Brown. “Opening this new outpatient clinic will provide better service and care for patients with complex infections.”

The OPAT clinic is staffed by a multidisciplinary team consisting of infectious disease specialists, registered nurses, a pharmacist, unit clerk and social worker. This service is currently available for patients referred by their physician during a hospital stay or by a physician in the emergency department. Some examples of the types of infections that the OPAT clinic can support treatment for include pneumonia, cellulitis, abscesses and post-operative wound infections.

Interior Health anticipates approximately 2,000 visits to this new outpatient service in the first year.

Establishing an outpatient clinic will help provide patients more timely access to treatment, reducing the length of stay in hospital and decreasing their need to return to the emergency department to access treatment.

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We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations. This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.