



NEWS & UPDATES

RECAP



The Bancroft Community Family Health Team began attaching patients from our waiting list while continuing efforts to enhance the overall patient experience. Following the completion of a recent patient experience survey, our team is actively analyzing feedback to inform quality improvement initiatives, refine policies, strengthen communication, and guide patient education efforts.

Early education initiatives have focused on clarifying the roles and differences between Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, as well as highlighting the importance of being a teaching site for medical students and residents to support future healthcare recruitment. In addition, the team remains committed to community well-being by recognizing and supporting a variety of health promotion and awareness initiatives throughout the year.

PRIMARY CARE EXPANSION ROLL OUT & ATTACHMENT

The Bancroft Community Family Health Team is pleased to share continued progress in improving access to primary care, having successfully **attached 634 patients from a waiting list** that once reached nearly 2,000 individuals, with some applications dating back to 2021. This achievement reflects a significant step forward for the community, particularly in light of the challenges faced in recent years, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, physician departures, unexpected early retirements, and continued population growth in Bancroft and surrounding areas, factors that mirror a broader provincial shortage of family physicians.

Through ongoing recruitment efforts and strong advocacy, the team secured additional funding under the **Ontario Primary Care Expansion Plan**. This investment has supported the expansion of care capacity through the addition of nurse practitioners and the integration of a new physician into the Medical Clinic, allowing more patients to be connected to primary care services.

As a rural healthcare provider, the team continues to play a vital and multifaceted role, with physicians contributing not only to family medicine but also to emergency department coverage, inpatient care, long-term care, hospice services, and coroner responsibilities. Patient intakes will continue gradually as capacity grows, with priority given to individuals already on the waiting list. Those selected for attachment will be contacted directly by mail, and patients are encouraged to ensure their contact information remains up to date.

AVAILABLE GROUP SESSIONS

Open Groups & Classes

- SMART Recovery
- Heart Health
- Healthy You
- Prediabetes
- Tools for Weight Management

Referral Based

- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Diabetes Activity Program

ADDICTION SUPPORT

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
RAAM Drop-in 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	RAAM Drop-in 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM SMART Recovery 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	RAAM Drop-in 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM	SMART Recovery 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

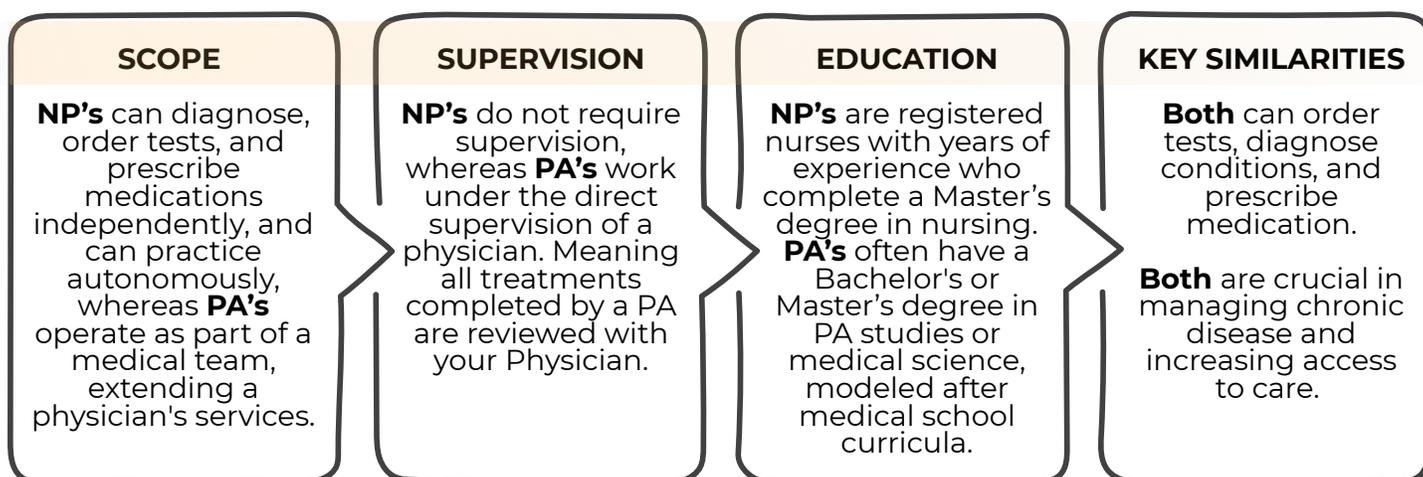
PATIENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY



Thank you to everyone who completed our Patient Experience Survey. The primary goal of a patient experience survey is to gather valuable feedback from patients about their interactions and satisfaction with our healthcare services. By understanding patient perspectives, we can identify strengths and pinpoint areas that need improvement. As we collect and analyze this information, we will use it to guide quality enhancement initiatives, adjust policies, provide education and improve communication to ensure a better overall experience for existing and future patients.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AN NP & PA

In Ontario, the primary difference is that **Nurse Practitioners (NPs)** are autonomous registered nurses with advanced education who can practice independently, while **Physician Assistants (PA's)** are skilled clinicians who work under the supervision of a physician. We are fortunate to have three Nurse Practitioners and two Physician Assistant's with our team.

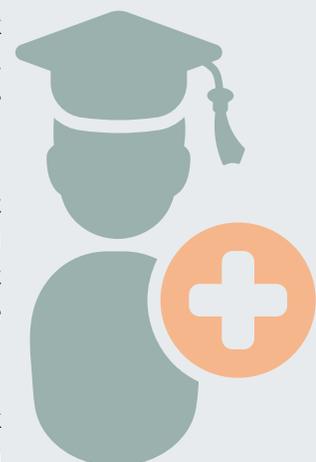


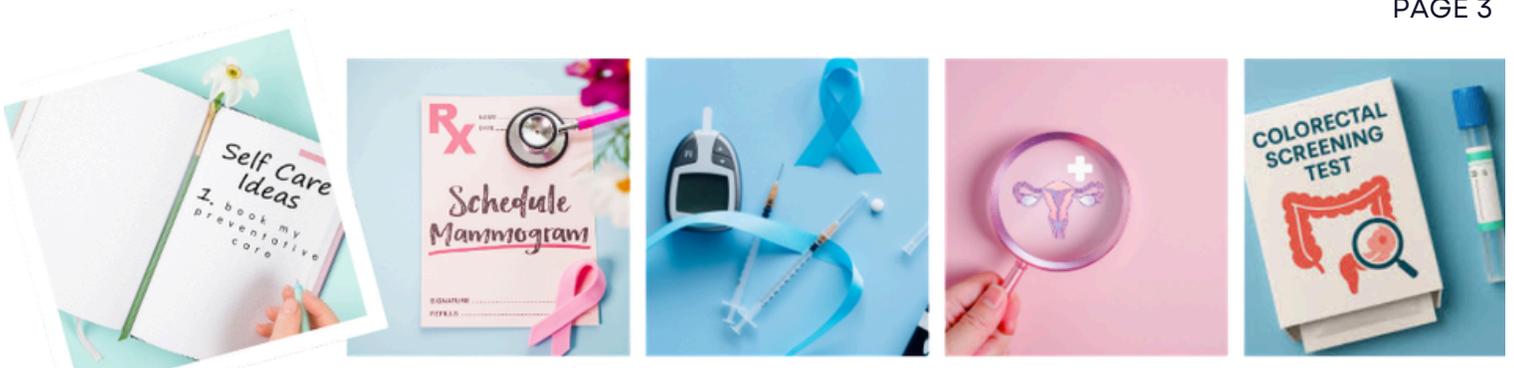
WE ARE A TEACHING SITE ...

The Bancroft Community Family Health Team and Medical Clinic are proud to be a **teaching facility**. This means that learners, such as medical students and residents, work alongside our practitioners to gain valuable experience and training in family medicine. By welcoming learners into our clinic, we help shape the next generation of healthcare professionals, ensuring high-quality care for our community.

Having learners is also an important **recruitment tool**. Many of our current doctors first came to Bancroft as visiting learners or residents and chose to return after experiencing the warmth of our team and community. Supporting medical education helps us attract and retain skilled practitioners, so you benefit from a dedicated and knowledgeable healthcare team.

If you have questions about learners or their role in your care, please don't hesitate to ask any member of our staff. We appreciate your support in helping us grow and strengthen family medicine in Bancroft.





P R E V E N T A T I V E C A R E I S S E L F C A R E

HPV AWARENESS DAY - MARCH 4TH

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common, highly contagious sexually transmitted infection affecting nearly all sexually active individuals, with around 75% acquiring it at some point.

Usually, HPV infections clear up on their own within a few years. However, in some cases, the virus can persist and lead to certain types of cancer. That's why regular screening is so important.

HPV is responsible for:

- Almost all cases of genital warts and cervical cancer
- 90% of anal cancers
- 78% of vaginal cancers
- 25% of vulvar cancers
- 50% of penile cancers
- 60% of oropharyngeal cancers (cancers of the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils).

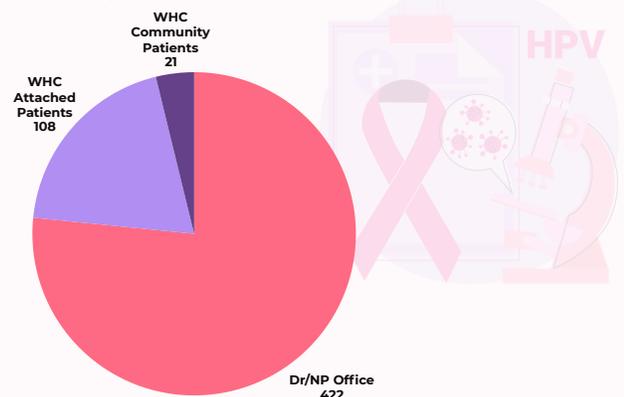
The virus is spread through intimate contact with genital skin and can infect both men and women. Condoms offer some but not total protection from HPV as they do not cover all the genital skin. You can be exposed to HPV the first-time sexual activity occurs or from only one sexual partner.

Screening Criteria:

- Have a valid OHIP card
- 25+ years old
- Have a cervix
- Have had sexual contact with another person
- Due for cervical screening, as per the Ontario Cervical Screening Program's recommendations

At Bancroft Community Family Health Team we offer a **Women's Health Clinic** for people with and without family doctors or nurse practitioners. Alternatively, you can speak with your care provider for more information.

BCFHT - HPV Screening Tests
April 2025 - March 2026



EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder in the world. With epilepsy, surges of electrical activity in your brain can cause recurring seizures.

Did you know

- 300,000 to 400,00 Canadians have epilepsy
- It is not contagious and often has no known cause
- It affects people of all ages and can develop at any time
- Each year 1 in 1,000 people with epilepsy die from SUDEP



COLORECTAL CANCER CANADA



Colorectal Cancer is increasingly affecting younger adults in Canada. It's now the deadliest cancer in men and the second in women aged 20 to 49, often diagnosed late. Although common, it's highly preventable and treatable if caught early. **Screening saves lives.** Bancroft Community Family Health Team wore blue on March 6th to show their support of lowering the screening age and urges everyone to talk to their health care provider.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8th, International Women's Day, we proudly recognized and celebrated the outstanding contributions of our female Doctors and Nurse Practitioners.

Your expertise, dedication, and compassion were integral to the excellence of our healthcare team and the well-being of our community. We honoured your strength in overcoming challenges unique to women in healthcare, breaking barriers with resilience and grace. Your unwavering commitment and tireless service inspired not only your colleagues, but also future generations aspiring to follow in your footsteps.

On that day, and every day, we acknowledged your leadership and positive impact in healthcare.



www.bcfht.org 613-332-1565

WORK ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

APRIL

- Tammy Ives, RN (12 years)
- Jessica Trumble (13 years)
- Casey Brown, RT (6 years)
- Leslee Holland (1 year)
- Courtney Bruce (8 years)

