

Information Regarding Your Referral for Therapy

Your physician may have referred you for therapy for a variety of reasons such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, relationship stress, mood disorders or other mental illness.

Your physician recommends that you participate in Individual, Couple or Family Therapy as an important part of your treatment. Research demonstrates that individual, couple and family therapies are effective treatments for those struggling with mental health and/or relationship concerns.

Our receptionist will attempt to contact you to book an appointment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your referral please contact us at:

519. 578. 2100 x 207

Experienced Registered Social Workers, Registered Marriage and Family Therapists, and graduate level learners, who receive supervision, provide CONFIDENTIAL Mental Health Services. These professionals work closely with your physician and other members of the Family Health Team who are part of your interdisciplinary circle of care.

Our therapists' honour and respect diversity in ability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, spirituality and socio-economic status. All people are welcome.

The following are some signs of -

Depression:

- feeling hopeless
- low energy, fatigue
- sleep disturbances
- loss of focus or inability to make decisions
- loss of interest in usual activities
- loss of interest in sex
- lack of feelings of enjoyment
- suicidal thoughts
- change in appetite

Anxiety:

- intense fear
- extreme worrying
- unexplained distress
- fear of social situations
- specific phobias
- panic attacks
- post traumatic stress

Having any of these symptoms is not a sign of mental weakness. There is no single cause for these treatable mental illnesses, which are very common mental health problems and affect people of any age.

- About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience depression some time in their lives.
- About 10 % of the population struggles with anxiety that interferes with their daily life.
- Children and adolescents can also experience these symptoms.

There are two main treatments for depression and anxiety and other mental illnesses: drug therapy and psychotherapy. With your doctor you can decide whether to choose one or use both combined. Psychotherapy focuses on your strengths to help you achieve goals to alleviate your symptoms. Discussing your goals, your behaviour, your emotions and your thoughts, as well as learning effective techniques to manage your symptoms, to problem solve and to access your support systems are part of the therapeutic process. *

While you wait: An important component of therapy is encouraging healthy lifestyle choices. Consider what small changes you could make to achieve the following habits:

- Walking for 20 – 30 minutes a day is a preferred and effective way to resist some of the symptoms of depression.
- Sharing your concerns with people who care about you. If you broke your leg, others would know your need and would be compassionate. Let them care for your emotional needs too.
- Rely on the resources that have helped you through rough times in the past: friends and family, spirituality, meditation, working out, hobbies, reading, writing in a journal, or whatever used to give you some pleasure.
- Take the time to eat well...research clearly demonstrates that your nutrition affects your mood and your ability to think clearly.
- Sleep hygiene is important...go to bed on time so that you allow for 8 hours of sleep. Do something calming and relaxing before going to bed. Sleep deprivation often aggravates symptoms that interfere with your life.

*some of the information in this brochure is adapted from www.cmha.ca and www.oamft.on.ca

Relationship concerns ??

Our mental health therapists are trained to help you and those you care about address relationship stress that may result from:

- conflict with a partner, children, co-workers, your siblings, or parents.
- frequent arguments, lack of trust, lack of intimacy, or infidelity
- abuse - past or present - whether it is physical, emotional or sexual
- transitions in relationships such as separation, divorce, step-parenting, chronic illness, aging, grief and loss
- the effect on everyone in the family when one person is struggling with anxiety, depression or other mental illnesses.

Life's relationships affect your emotional well-being. Our therapists are trained to facilitate understanding and healing between people, so that your relationships are strengthened and contribute to living well.

Therapists help people see their situations from a new perspective that supports their strengths and invites healthy change. *

For some helpful information on maintaining relationships during times of stress, check out the resource pages on the following websites:

www.aamft.org
www.oamft.on.ca

Important information about our mental health services:

Because you are a patient with the Centre for Family Medicine, the Ministry of Health pays for your therapy. If, however, you do not show up for an appointment or cancel without **24** hours notification you will be billed a fee of **\$50**.

We do have a wait list. The receptionist can give you an estimated wait time for your appointment. If you have access to an Employee Assistance Plan or benefits that cover therapy we suggest you access them first. If you are in crisis call the Waterloo Region distress line: 519.745.1166 or go to the emergency department of Grand River Hospital.

While you wait: Take some beginning steps toward a healthy lifestyle (see other side) and check out the following websites for helpful ideas to get you started on your goal for a better life:

www.cmha.ca Lots of helpful information and resources about mental health.

<http://www.moodgym.anu.edu.au> An interactive site with a good introduction to cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT).

www.livinglifetothefull.com An excellent interactive CBT site!!

www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/ An excellent site about depression and bipolar mood disorders.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Are ANXIETY, FEAR
DEPRESSION,
FAMILY STRESS,
COUPLE CONFLICT or
CHRONIC PAIN
getting in your way of
living life well?

**Your family physician has
referred you to the
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
provided by**

The Centre for Family Medicine
Family Health Team

Our Mental Health Services are
located at 25 Joseph Street in
Kitchener.

Check our website for a map:

www.family-medicine.ca



519.578.2100