



What will your government do to bring a high quality, accessible, standardized evidence-based model of arthritis care for all Manitoba residents?

Manitoba Liberals are committed to evidence-based care when it comes to the provision of healthcare services. Many of us know someone in our family or social circle that has been affected by arthritis. As this condition disproportionately affects seniors and older Manitobans, Manitoba Liberals recognize that adequate mobility is one of the most important ways people can continue to live a dignified life as they get older.

Manitoba Liberals have announced a suite of measures to ensure that Manitobans can get timely access to medical care across the province. We know that populations tend to be healthier if they have timely access to a family physician. Manitoba Liberals will significantly increase the number of family physicians in the province by making it more attractive for people to enter family practice so that everyone has access to a family doctor.

What will your government do to ensure the continuation, improvement, and expansion of virtual care for all Manitoba residents – both patients and health care professionals – and ensure access is equitable to all?

Virtual care is particularly important in areas where there are pockets of inaccessible medical care – rural and northern areas especially. Our goal is to ensure that everyone in Manitoba – no matter where you are, has timely access to a family doctor so that medical treatment is readily available to all who need it.

For those living rurally, Manitoba Liberals have announced that we will further work with cellular providers to expand cellular service while significantly improving broadband internet to rural and northern Manitoba. For all, internet has now become an absolute necessity and we need to do all we can to ensure it is accessible, especially to those who rely on it for medical care.

Will your government introduce culturally appropriate, patient-centered policies, such as a patient care facilitator or “arthritis liaison,” to help Indigenous Peoples navigate the healthcare system and receive coordinated care within their community to manage their arthritis?

We really need to recognize the need to reconcile in meaningful ways with Indigenous Manitobans. Indigenous reconciliation is a priority for Manitoba Liberals - we dedicated a chapter of our platform to it as a commitment to making right the wrongs of the past.

A Manitoba Liberal government is committed to creating a Manitoba Indigenous Secretariat to be an independent voice directing government on how best to offer programs/services to Indigenous peoples. Part of this implementation is to focus on ways of how to improve patient-centred care, especially for Indigenous peoples. So patient care facilitation and healthcare navigation could certainly fall under this purview.

Will your government take steps to ensure timely, specialized care for Manitoba residents struggling with osteoarthritis, including joint replacement surgery wait times that are within medically recommended guidelines?

Wait times for critical surgeries such as hip and knee replacements have ballooned tremendously under the current PC government. Successive PC and NDP governments alike ignored warning signs that Manitoba wasn't training enough specialists and healthcare staff to keep up with the demand. The result has been that Manitobans have had to wait far too long for these surgeries, or having to travel far away from home to access these procedures, which is completely unacceptable.

Manitoba Liberals want to ensure that we improve our healthcare staffing shortage which will directly strengthen our current capacity so that people needing to access joint replacement surgery can have these procedures done close to home.

What will your government do to improve the uptake of biosimilars, and will you commit to reinvest those savings to support additional medication listings and improve patient coverage?

Manitoba Liberals want to ensure that that medications are accessible for patients to manage their pain. Crisis costs like ER visits are much more costly than ensuring medication and preventative approaches are available. We want prescriptions that are affordable for Manitobans and are committed to reinvesting savings into other approved, effective medicines for people living with chronic pain.