**BRIEFING NOTE**

**TOPIC: Saskatoon Emergency Physician Utilization**

**SUBMITTED TO: Brenda Schwan, VP Integrated Rural Health & Dr. Roodt, PE Integrated Rural Health**

**DATE: February 19, 2025**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Dr. Kapur, Leader Virtual Physician Programs

**REVIEWED BY: None**

**PURPOSE OF SUBMISSION:** Information  Decision/Approval

# Situation:

Questions have arisen about the Virtual Physician for ER program (**VIPER**) drawing physician resources away from other acute care needs. This BN identifies other SHA initiatives that are reliant on the same work force.

# Background:

An ad-hoc survey was done of emergency physicians in Saskatoon to determine what other SHA programs they are employed with / contracted to. This does NOT account for physicians working for (a) the college of medicine (b) billings and time spent directly on MSB work (e.g. family medicine clinics) or (c) administrative appointments within the SHA

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| STARS Saskatoon | 17 Saskatoon emergency physicians (total 20). Thus 85% of the workforce is Saskatoon ER |
| RACE Team / Code Blue Team | 12 Saskatoon emergency physicians (total 30). Thus 40% of the workforce is Saskatoon ER |
| VIPER | 9 Saskatoon emergency physicians but 1 works remotely from Vancouver and 2 are casual ER physicians and thus not regularly in the ER. Thus, functionally we use 6 physicians. (total 19). Thus 26% of the workforce is Saskatoon ER |

The above value reflects the total physician head count for each service and not the hours spent working or percentage of workload. There are other minor programs that were accounted for by Dr. J. Smith during her tenure. This data is from an email dated October 30, 2024 and is captured below. Note this information has not been independently validated unlike the STARS, Race and VIPER data.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Program | Physicians |
| ICU | Cload (FTE is 0.75) |
| ICU Extenders | Kapur & Davis (casual) |
| PEDS ER | Schwetz (0.25), Martin (0.25), Carey (0.25), Ferguson (0.25), Gardner (0.33), Pearson / Woods / Davis / Pradhan / Ramunno (Casual) |
| SIPPA (admin) | Witt, Oyedokun, Ivanans |
| UGME (admin) | VanDeKamp, Gardner, Selvig, Smith, Perrot |
| PGME (admin) | Patterson, Trivedi, Gaco |
| Sexual Assault Teams | Perrot, Kinnin, Albrecht, Boutin, Maring, Paterson, Rouleau, Selvig, Smith, Webster |
| Trauma | Kinnin, Oyedokun, Davis, Pearson, Carey, Thoma |
| Cardiac Rehab | Ivanans, Witt, Nataraj, Selvig, Perrot |
| Community GP | VanDeKamp, Kinnin |
| Low Risk Obstetrics | VanDeKamp |

# Assessment:

VIPER uses the smallest number of saskatoon emergency medicine physicians of any major SHA service.

# Recommendation:

1. VIPER is the lowest utilization of saskatoon ER docs in both absolute numbers (6) and percentage (26%) of workforce.