

HER PLACE FOR HEALTH - A DIFFERENT KIND OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR WOMEN

WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT??

* Women who receive health services at this clinic have a voice in how those services are offered. They are members of what is called a primary health community (PHC). Each woman is a member - not a patient or client. She is represented by the women's health council - a group of women who are elected by the membership to represent their needs.

* Nurse practitioners are the primary health care providers in this clinic. We can diagnose and treat minor acute illnesses, provide preventive health care and help women manage stable chronic illnesses. And yes, we can prescribe medications when needed.

* We have established a network of physician consultants who are sensitive to the needs of women. When necessary, we will talk directly to these consultants on your behalf or advise you to make an appointment for a consultation. Because we are also providing case management services as part of our primary health care package, you will never have to drift endlessly between health providers, we coordinate all of these consultations and follow up visits.

* We spend an unusual amount of time just listening. We believe that in order to provide meaningful health services, we need to know who you are as a person. So it is a high priority at Her Place for Health to gather a good deal of information at the first visit, which lasts at least one hour, sometimes longer. In fact, sometimes it will take at least two visits before we can create a health plan that is designed just for you! It doesn't matter if you are totally healthy or have many health problems, we spend a lot of time getting to know you.

* Each member has an individualized health plan created for them. It's a schedule for all preventive health screening in addition to health education and health promotion activities. We are especially interested in preventing illness and maximizing your health potential.

* Our charting system is completely open. You can have access to copies of these records and, in fact, encourage you to do so. One of our goals is to create a charting system that includes your direct input.

How can we afford to offer this kind of service?

We have eliminated a great deal of overhead expense by doing the following:

- * We share space and operating costs in an existing practice.
- * We see women only by appointment - there is no overbooking - there are no delays.
- * When a woman is seen at the clinic - the nurse practitioner, who will provide care for her, will also take her blood pressure, get her weight, take her to the exam room - there are no other assistants. We believe that not only does this save money, but it also allows the nurse practitioner to get to know this woman better.
- * We are not at the clinic every day of the week. We have some evening and some day hours, depending on the schedule. Since we get to know our members very well, we can often begin to address non emergency issues over the phone. We can also provide home visits when needed.
- * We believe that because we spend so much time building relationships with women, there is a greater opportunity for women to learn good health habits and decrease their risks for disease or complications. The amount of money saved by preventing a stroke in one woman, could pay for many clinics of this kind!

ARE WE PROVIDERS FOR MAJOR HEALTH PLANS??

You bet!! We accept Medica, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, MnCare and MA. We are also providers for the Minnesota Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

Champus and PreferredOne contracts are pending.

HOW CAN YOU BE A MEMBER OF THIS EXCITING HEALTH CLINIC?

You can call and make an appointment at 672-2915. If you have questions about anything you have read, feel free to speak directly with the director of the clinic. You can call Pat Camillo at the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing, 624-3903.

Her Place for Health is a primary health community (PHC) which is managed by nurse practitioners who teach at the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing, together with the women who are receiving health services at this site.