

## APPENDIX A

### Access to and availability of primary care physicians and Nurse Practitioners in Prince Edward Island

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Figure 1 – Survey population

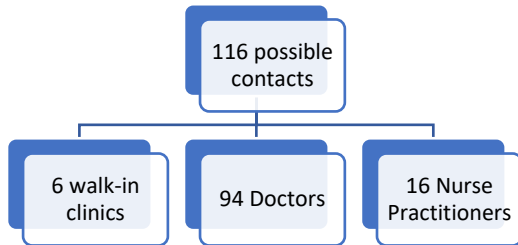
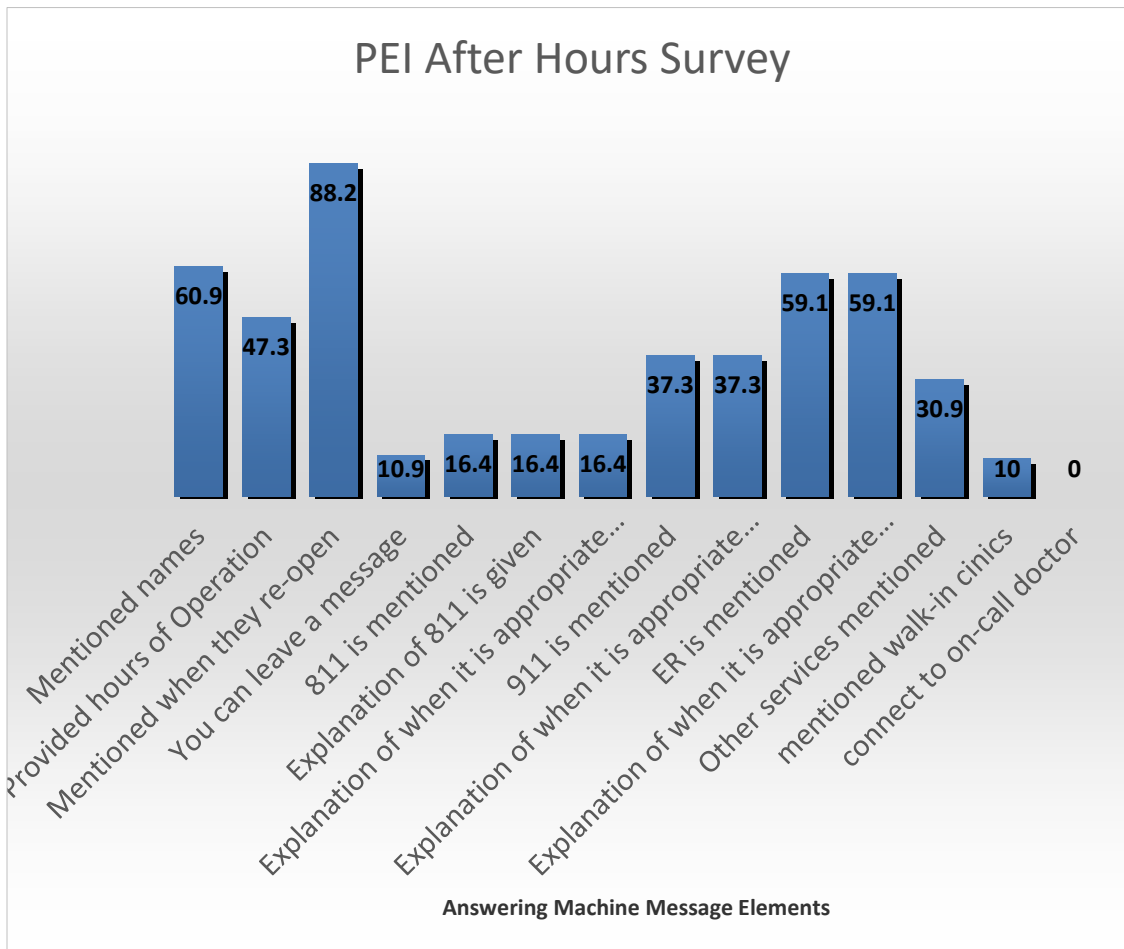
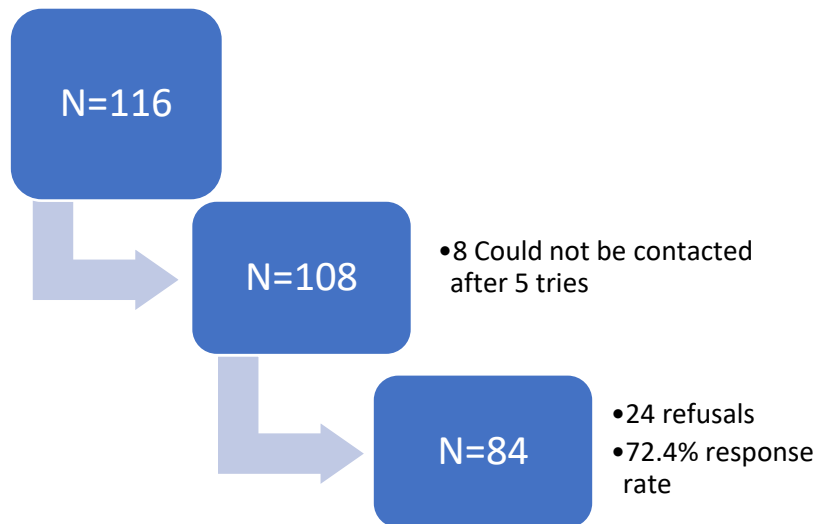


Figure 2 – Results of After-hours Survey



**Figure 3 – Response rate of Working-hours Survey**



**Table 1 – Structure of practice**

Working Hours Survey	All N=84, % (n)	FPs only, N=68, % (n)	NP only, N=16, % (n)
<b>Type of practice:</b>			
Solo practice	36.9% (31)	42.6% (29)	n<5
2 providers	28.6% (24)	29.4% (20)	n<5
3-5 providers	15.5% (13)	14.7% (10)	n<5
More than 5 providers	19.0% (16)	13.2% (9)	43.8% (7)
Multi-practice 2 or more total	63.1% (53)	57.4% (39)	87.5% (14)
<b>Type of Practice?</b>			
Not a walk-in clinic	85.7% (72)	86.8% (59)	
Mixed walk-in and regular clinic	13.1% (11)	11.8% (8)	
Solely a walk-in clinic	n<5	n<5	

**Table 2 – Type of interdisciplinary health care providers accessible to patients in the practice**

<b>Health Care Professional</b>	<b>Number of practices where patients have access to them All N=84, % (n)</b>
Family Practice/Clinic Nurse	67.9% (57)
Nurse Practitioner	47.6% (40)
Dietician	20.3% (17)
Public Health Nurse	8.3% (7)
Mental Health Nurse	5.9% (5)
Pharmacist	5.9% (5)
Physiotherapist	n<5
Social Worker	n<5
Psychologist	n<5
Psychiatrist	n=0
Occupational Therapist	n=0
Pediatrician	n=0
Podiatrist	n=0

**Table 3 – Access to primary care providers**

<b>Working Hours Survey</b>	<b>All N=84, % (n)</b>	<b>FPs only N=68, % (n)</b>
<b>Accepting new patients</b>		
No	<b>78.6% (66)</b>	77.9% (53)
Accept with conditions	11.9% (10)	11.8% (8)
Accept new patients unconditionally	9.5% (8)	10.3% (7)

**Table 4 – New patient screening**

<b>Working Hours Survey (New Patient Screening)</b>	<b>All n=66 % (n)</b>	<b>FPs only n=58 % (n)</b>
<b>Of those accepting new patients (yes + exceptions):</b>		
<b>The process for new patients:</b>		
'Meet & Greet'/Screening	10.6% (7)	10.3% (6)
First come first serve	13.6% (9)	10.3% (6)
<i>unknown</i>	75.8% (50)	79.3% (46)
<b>If 'meet &amp; greet' or 'patient interview' is required, afterwards:</b>	<b>All n=66 % (n)</b>	<b>FPs only n=58 % (n)</b>
Does patient ever decide not to continue seeing FP/NP?		
No	85.7% (6)	83.3 % (5)
<b>Yes</b>	n<5	n<5
Does FP/NP ever decide not to continue seeing patient?		
No	71.4% (5)	n<5
<b>Yes</b>	n<5	n<5

**Table 5 – Providers accepting patients requiring narcotics**

<b>If accepting patients unconditionally, are you accepting patients requiring narcotics?</b>	<b>Physicians Accepting unconditionally (Total n=7) % (n)</b>
<b>Yes</b>	n<5
<b>No</b>	71.4% (5)

**Table 6 – Hours spent seeing patients**

<b>Hours of care</b>	<b>Total Sample (n=83)</b>
<b>Office hours per week (based on n=82; no data for 3)</b>	
<b>Range</b>	4-43
<b>Mean (SD)</b>	24.2 (8.4)
<b>Median (IQR)</b>	24.0 (20, 30)

**Table 7 – Next available routine and urgent appointments**

<b>Next available appointment?</b>	<b>Total Sample (n=81)</b>	<b>Solo Providers (n=30)</b>	<b>2 Providers (n=24)</b>	<b>3-5 Providers (n=12)</b>	<b>&gt;5 providers (n=15)</b>
<b>For routine care?</b>	<b>% (n)</b>	<b>% (n)</b>	<b>% (n)</b>	<b>% (n)</b>	<b>% (n)</b>
<b>Same day or next day</b>	<b>27.2% (22)</b>	n<5	29.2% (7)	50.0% (6)	33.3% (5)
<b>Within 2-5 days</b>	22.2% (18)	26.7% (8)	20.8% (5)	n<5	n<5
<b>Within 6-10 days</b>	17.3% (14)	26.7% (8)	n<5	n<5	n<5
<b>Greater than 10 days</b>	33.3% (27)	33.3% (10)	33.3% (8)	n<5	46.7% (7)
<b>For urgent care?</b>	<b>% (n) (n=77)</b>	<b>% (n) (n=30)</b>	<b>% (n) (n=22)</b>	<b>% (n) (n=11)</b>	<b>%(n) (n=14)</b>
<b>Same day</b>	<b>38.9% (30)</b>	43.3% (13)	31.8% (7)	63.6% (7)	n<5
<b>Next day</b>	33.8% (26)	40.0% (12)	31.8% (7)	n<5	35.7% (5)
<b>Within 2-5 days</b>	11.7% (9)	n<5	n<5	n<5	n<5
<b>Greater than 5 days</b>	15.6% (12)	n<5	27.3% (6)	n<5	n<5

**Table 8 – Wait times when a patient can be seen by their provider or a nurse practitioner**

<b>Wait times for appointments when patients can be seen by:</b>	<b>Wait time for non urgent appointment</b>	<b>Wait time for urgent appointment</b>
<b>Only their own physician</b>	11.7 days (Mean) 7 days (Median) (n=43)	2.8 days (Mean) 1 day (Median) (n=39)
<b>Their own physician or a nurse practitioner</b>	8.4 days (Mean) 3 days (Median) (n=35)	3.3 days (Mean) 1 day (Median) (n=33)
	<b>p=0.01</b>	<b>p=0.99</b>

**Table 9 - When there are multiple providers within one practice, who can patients be seen by?**

	<b>All N=34, % (n)</b>
Only their own provider	14.7% (5)
Any provider in the practice	47.1% (16)
Another provider if theirs is away/sick	38.2% (13)

**Table 10 - If seeing another provider in the practice sooner is an option for an appointment, when would the next available appointment be?"**

	<b>For routine appointments</b> <b>All n=21</b> <b>% (n)</b>	<b>For urgent appointments</b> <b>All n=17</b> <b>% (n)</b>
<b>Same day</b>	57.1% (12)	58.8% (10)
<b>2-3 days</b>	(n<5)	(n<5)
<b>Greater than 5 days</b>	(n<5)	(n<5)

**Table 11 - Comparison of wait times for those who could see any provider vs those who could only see their own provider.**

	Wait time for own provider	Wait time for any provider
<b>For routine appointments (n=9)</b>		
Mean	21.2 days	3.78 days
Median	6 days	1 day
	<b>p=0.017</b>	
<b>For urgent appointments (n=7)</b>		
Mean	13.71 days	1 day
Median	1 day	0 days (same day)
	<b>p=0.007</b>	

**Table 12 – On call coverage by practitioners**

<b>Is coverage provided after the office is closed?</b>		
	<b>All N=84 % (n)</b>	<b>FPs only N=68 % (n)</b>
Yes	n<5	n<5
No on-call	96.4% (81)	97.1% (66)

**Table 13 – Additional questions**

<b>Working Hours Survey</b>	<b>All N=84 % (n)</b>	<b>FPs only N=68 % (n)</b>
<b>Does FP/NP have a ‘one issue per appointment’ policy?</b>		
No	82.1% (69)	82.4% (56)
Yes	17.9% (15)	17.6% (12)
<b>Is there an email address where providers can respond to patient questions?</b>		
Yes	11.9% (10)	10.3% (7)

**Table 14 – EMR use**

<b>Working Hours Survey PEI</b>	<b>All N=84 % (n)</b>
Does the providers office use an EMR?	
Yes	34.5% (29)
<b>If yes, is the EMR used for any of the following? (not mutually exclusive)</b>	N=29
Patient scheduling	93.1% (27)
Recording patient encounters	75.9% (22)
Lab results	62.1% (18)
Billing	51.7% (15)
To prompt calls for patient follow-up	31.0% (9)