

*An Iroquois Falls resident has asked why the Anson General Hospital is considering building a new clinic to house doctors. She points out that there seems to be adequate office space, waiting rooms, receptionists' areas and examining rooms in the hospital, and wonders what will happen to the space in the hospital should the doctors move out? Considering that healthcare funding is limited she is curious to know how this new building will be financed.*

Anson General Hospital is attempting to recruit up to 5 Physicians for Iroquois Falls and we want them to eventually work as one group. The current space is not large enough and the layout is not suitable for a group practice.

We are confident that Iroquois Falls will soon be granted a Family Health Team (FHT), a government initiative designed to help doctors work more collaboratively with other health professionals. When we get a FHT we will be hiring other professionals to work with the physicians and we will need an even larger area. Furthermore, the current space is not that accessible to the disabled and seniors.

A new modern facility is also a good recruitment tool as new physicians expect to have an appropriate office and at least two examination rooms. Currently we are crowded even with four physicians—offices are small and sometimes our physicians are forced to use their office as an examining room.

In terms of funding, we are hoping to obtain provincial funding and will try to raise funds locally. Anson will have to direct some of its capital to a new clinic but we feel it is important as we have to compete with communities like Englehart which have a very modern clinic.

The old medical clinic space would be rented to other health agencies. We understand a couple of them would like to be located at the Hospital making Anson a central location for people to receive care. This is done in Cochrane and has worked well. The rental income helps to reduce the overhead expenses of the Clinic thus maintaining low office costs for Physicians. We anticipate that by using the rental income to balance overhead expenses, the new facility will not cost the Hospital anything to operate.

We thank the individual who submitted this question. If you have something you are curious about concerning your local hospital or the MICs Group please write down your question and drop it off to your local hospital reception, e-mail it to [publicrelations@micsgroup.com](mailto:publicrelations@micsgroup.com), or send a letter to Public Relations c/o Anson General Hospital, 58 Anson Dr., Iroquois Falls, ON., P0K 1E0.