



Pediatric Care  
750 Portage Road, Haerberle Plaza, Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
38 Heritage Court, P.O. Box 498, Lockport, NY 14095

March 23, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In the near future, the Community Health Center of Niagara (“CHC”) will be welcoming the pediatric patients of Planned Parenthood of Western New York. Beginning May 2, 2011, your child may be seen by Dr. Edward Brown at CHC at 501 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Niagara Falls, NY, 14301; telephone 716-278-4418.

Planned Parenthood of Western New York will no longer provide pediatric care services for your child after April 29, 2011. As soon as possible thereafter, Planned Parenthood will be closing its operations in its Lockport, NY center. It will also be discontinuing pediatric care services in its Niagara Falls, NY center on that date.

### **Why choose the Community Health Center of Niagara?**

On October 10, 2010, *The Niagara Gazette* called CHC “the first of its kind in Niagara County; providing primary medical services to individuals of all ages regardless of their ability to pay.” Planned Parenthood is pleased to work with CHC to ensure your child’s on-going care. As is a Federally Qualified Health Center (“FQHC”), the benefits of receiving health care at CHC include:

- A high quality, unique community program which provides enhanced preventative and primary care services to both you and your child(ren).
- Medicaid, Managed Care Medicaid and commercial insurance are accepted.
- For those individuals that are uninsured, services at CHC are offered on a sliding fee schedule.
- Dental health and social work are also offered at the center.
- The center offers same day appointments, walk-in times and extended care hours.

### **What do I need to do for my child?**

In order to help insure your child’s care, we ask you to fill out and sign the attached *Pediatrics Authorization Form for Release of Health Information*, (the “Authorization Form”), and return it to Planned Parenthood in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. Among other things, the Authorization Form allows your child’s medical records to be given to another clinic or provider.

To help you choose which clinic or other provider best fits your family’s needs, attached to this letter is a list of pediatric and family care providers located near Planned Parenthood’s Lockport and Niagara Falls clinic sites. ***All have agreed to accept new patients.*** Of course, you are free to pick another provider of your choosing. Before doing so, however, we suggest that you check that the provider is taking new patients.

(more)

The Authorization Form allows you to pick one of three options as follows:

- Dr. Brown will be leaving Planned Parenthood at the end of April. Beginning on May 2, 2011, he will begin working at CHC, located at 501 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Niagara Falls. CHC is an FQHC that provides primary care and health services, and the center will accept patients once served by the Lockport and Niagara Falls clinical sites beginning now. ***If you wish for CHC to receive your child's records, please fill in "Community Health Center of Niagara" in the line marked PROVIDER and complete the address as "501 10<sup>th</sup> St., Niagara Falls, NY."*** Your child's medical records will quickly be sent to CHC and you can schedule appointments with CHC as necessary. CHC may be reached at 716-278-4418
- If you wish for **any other** provider to receive your child's records, please complete this form and fill in the name and address of the new provider. We have enclosed a sheet of choices for you. ***Your child's new provider can also help you complete this form.*** We will promptly send all of your child's medical records to the new provider's office, and you can then plan future appointments directly with the new provider as needed.
- ***If you do not return this form before April 30, 2011, or are unable to pick which clinic or other provider will be providing care for your child,*** your child's records will be kept by Planned Parenthood, until you designate another provider or for so long as the law requires, whichever is first to occur. ***In the meantime, all you need to do to obtain these records is to call us at 716-282-1223.*** However, we strongly recommend that you make arrangements for another provider to take over the care of your child as quickly as possible.

Please fill out the ***Authorization Form*** and either mail it in the enclosed envelope at Planned Parenthood of WNY, 750 Portage Rd, Niagara Falls, NY 14301 or drop it off at the front desk at the either the Lockport, Heritage Ct clinic (on or before April 29) or the Niagara Falls, Portage Road clinic. Please complete and return this form no later than October 1, 2011, if possible.

I hope this letter explains the options for both your child's future care and the transfer of your family's medical records. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Colleen Schiffhauer, WHNP, Director of Patient Services, at 716-831-2200 ext 5927.

Very truly yours,



Karen J. Nelson, CEO  
Planned Parenthood of WNY