



PRESS RELEASE

December 15, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Unique Renal Anaemia Clinic Implemented in Central Jamaica to Manage Patients

The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has implemented a renal anaemia clinic at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester to manage and monitor renal patients who normally end up being hospitalized because of issues related to low blood levels.

The clinic is the only one of its kind in the island and is opened every Wednesday. The anaemia clinic serves some 179 patients, who are provided with blood and iron transfusion and erythropoietin injections to assist with keeping their blood levels within the normal range.

SRHA Regional Technical Director, Dr. Vitillius Holder explained that if your kidneys are damaged, they produce less of a hormone called erythropoietin which is needed to make red blood cells. This results in fewer cells being made and causes anaemia. Anaemia is a common complication of kidney disease.

"Red blood cells contain haemoglobin which carries oxygen around your body. Kidney disease also affects the way in which your body uses iron. If you have kidney disease you may therefore need more iron to make the same amount of haemoglobin as people without kidney disease. We recognized many patients with renal impairment were being hospitalized so we implemented the clinic as a tool to monitor and manage these patients. This helps to keep many patients out of hospital" Dr. Holder said.

Regional Director for the SRHA, Mr. Michael Bent commended Nurse Manager, Marika Davis Miller and her team at the MRH for the wonderful job they have been doing at the anaemia clinic and also the renal clinic.

"As an Authority, we continue to leverage our resources and develop programmes and initiatives to provide quality and effective healthcare to our clients. However, while we manage our patients in hospitals and clinics, I want to appeal to Jamaicans to take better care of their health

(more)

Chairman: Wayne Chen; Vice Chairman: Michael Stern, **Board Members:** Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, Omar Miller, Dave Powell, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Dr. Naydene Williams, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

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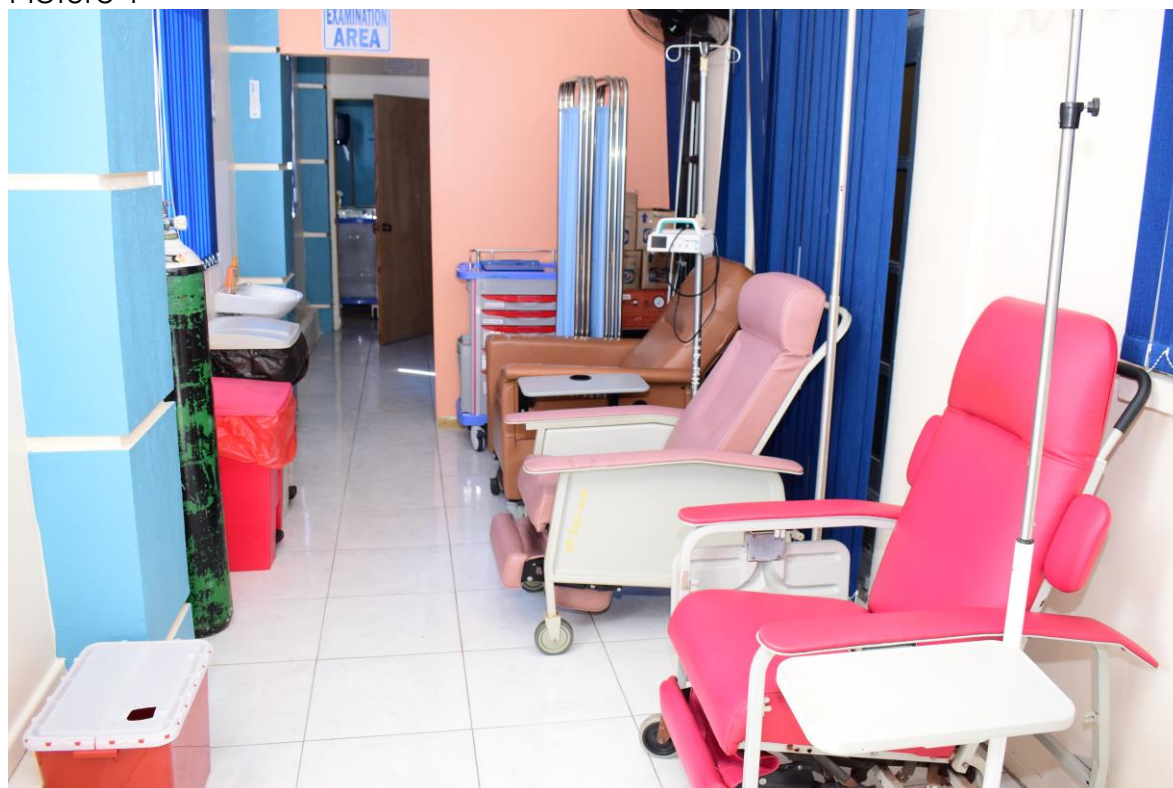
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in preventing or reducing the risks of non-communicable diseases which can result in conditions such as kidney failure, which is costly to treat. I want to also encourage persons who already have these complications to speak with our healthcare providers about managing these conditions so they do not get worse" Mr. Bent said.

Picture 1



A section of the anaemia clinic.

(more)

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Picture 2



Some of the team members from the Mandeville Regional Hospital renal and anaemia clinics.

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