



# Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, July 23, 2009

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Did you know that SVT Health Center serves all members of the  
community?

by Sarah Richardson

Did you know that The SVT Health Center serves all members of the community including: non-Native and Native patients, patients covered by Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance, and even patients with no insurance at all?

In fact, SVT Health Center is one of the only clinics in the area that offer medical and dental services on a sliding fee scale, based on a patient's income or family size.

### I thought SVT Health Center served only Native patients?

No. SVT is open to everyone.

SVT Health Center is a recognized community health center. It means that the federal government deems that SVT Health Center meets a high standard of clinical care and makes its services available to all, regardless of income. More than 71% of SVT Health Center's current patients are not Native.

### Why did SVT decide to open health centers, there seem to be enough doctors and dentists around?

The Seldovia Village Tribe opened its three centers because, while there are many doctors and dentists in the area, not all of them are equipped to offer services at a reduced rate to the uninsured and to Medicaid and Medicare patients. The SVT Health Center fulfills that need with staff members dedicated to helping those in need navigate the system and get funding for care.

More than 43% of SVT Health Center's patients live below the federal poverty level.

### **How do I qualify for reduced rates?**

Qualifying for reduced rates is simple. Just collect proof of income (a paystub, a bank statement or a tax return) and bring it to your appointment at any one of our clinics in Homer, Seldovia or Anchor Point.

Our billing and community outreach specialists will help you through the process and will even help you find funding for the procedures or treatments you need.

### **What can SVT do for me?**

#### **SVT Medical provides:**

- Urgent Care for Illness and Injury
- Same-day appointments
- Health screening and wellness for patients of all ages
- Newborn and Well Child Care
- Minor out-patient surgical procedures
- Chronic disease management (High blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, etc.)
- Treatment for minor injuries
- Laboratory Services
- DOT, Sports and School physicals
- Well-woman care including family planning and STI screening
- Prescription assistance program
- Case management/outreach and referral services
- Telemedicine, simple x-rays

#### **SVT Dental provides:**

- Diagnostic and Preventive Services for children and adults including: examinations, x-rays, cleanings, sealants, and fluoride treatments.
- Restorative Services including: fillings, crowns, and bridges.
- Partial and full dentures
- Extractions

### **What is Telemedicine and how does SVT Health Center use it?**

Telemedicine allows doctors to make a diagnosis for patients when they are separated by distance. At SVT Health Center we use telemedicine to consult with specialists in Anchorage so that our patients can receive the best quality care at home in their communities.

SVT Health Center's telemedicine equipment was updated recently to provide even more service to our patients. Now we can provide: spirometry (breathing tests), audiometry

(hearing tests) and VTC (video conferencing). The equipment's other features include a camera, EKG and video otoscope.

### **Can you do X-Rays?**

In Homer, yes. Our Homer clinic staff has Digital X-Ray Training (tele-radiology). Our in-house equipment can take chest and extremity x-rays. All of our X-rays are read and archived by Diagnostic Imaging of Alaska so you're getting an expert diagnosis without an expensive trip to the hospital.

### **Why do I never see the same physician?**

Right now, SVT Health Center is using locum physicians while we recruit full-time providers. Our Locum physicians come from all over the United States. Some enjoy the opportunity to travel and treat patients in a different setting while some are using a short-term placement to see if Alaska is right for them.

Recruiting the right provider takes time and effort. We're not looking for just any physician. We want someone with the right personality, background and training to give you the top-notch care you deserve.

In the past couple of months, SVT Health Center has interviewed three very strong candidates with tremendous skills and experience in family medicine. Not only do we feel like they'd be great assets to our clinics but also to the community. Stay tuned for more information as it arises.

### **When is the Seldovia Clinic open?**

The July hours are:

Donna Fenske – July 6, 7, 13, 14

Sue Christiansen – July 20, 21, 27, 28

Ellen Chambers (Acupuncture) – July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

The August hours are:

Donna Fenske – August 3, 4, 7, 10, 11 & 31

Sue Christiansen – August 17, 18, 24, & 25

Ellen Chambers (Acupuncture) – Fridays.

**Call us today for an appointment!**

### **How can I find out more about SVTHC?**

SVT Health Center now has a group on Facebook. Sign up to learn more about the clinics, including upcoming news and events. As always, you can call us at (907) 226-2228

or (907) 435-3262.

**Who do I call for an appointment?**

For an appointment call the clinic you'd like to visit.

Homer (for Medical and Dental services): (907) 226-2228

Seldovia (for Medical services): (907) 435-3262

Anchor Point (for Medical services): (907) 226-2238

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