



SABACARES NEWSLETTER | SUMMER EDITION 2023



Saba Cares is the healthcare provider in Saba, providing amongst others outdoor patient care, emergency care, a laboratory, home health and a nursing home. We feel responsible for the health of the Saban community.

We aim to provide healthcare of the best quality. For that we cooperate with health suppliers on Saba the hospitals in the Dutch Caribbean and ZJCN. For us, clear communication and information go hand in hand with good services. With this newsletter, we want to inform you about our services, activities, and new projects. We send out the newsletter twice a year. To always stay updated, follow us on Facebook @SabaCaresFoundation or visit our website www.sabacares.org

Judith Meijer, Board of Directors

What have we been up to?

Population screenings

Last year cervical cancer screening has been introduced to Saba. In cooperation with RIVM we have screened more than 100 women between 30 and 60 years. From April 2023 breast cancer screening has also become available for women in the age group 50- 75 years. Women interested in taking part in this procedure can contact the clinic at 4163288 (press 4) to sign up for the next available screening. The next population screening we are still working on to make available for the Saban community is the colon cancer screening.

Direct Referrals

Almost all referrals to SMMC (Sint Maarten Medical Center) are now direct referrals. This means that the medical advisor does not have to approve the referral anymore. This is a new process for everyone involved, and it still takes time to adjust. However, all health care suppliers and ZJCN supports this development, so we are all keen on making sure that the process is a comfortable one for the patients and has a positive impact on the cooperation between Saba Cares, SMMC and ZJCN.

Update building

The preparations for the new building are still progressing as planned. The architect has finalized most of their plans and we are in contact with a constructor to discuss the budget and planning. We hope to start with the actual building after the summer. The building process will require adjustments from staff, patients, and the community. We and the public entity will inform you about the changes in a timely manner.

Medical transport

Since January this year Saba Cares has become responsible for medical transport on Saba. If you want to know if you are eligible for medical transport, please contact your doctor.

New Projects

Digital Dermatology

Our doctors are now in direct contact with a dermatologist in the Netherlands that can advise them on how to assess a skin anomaly. As our visiting dermatologist has mostly a very tight schedule, this service helps our doctors to make best use of her limited time.

Private Care

We know that some of our patients sometimes visit doctors elsewhere, without a referral. Everyone is entitled to do so. However, we would ask our patients to inform the doctors of Saba Cares about these visits and share the reports with them. That way our doctors have all the information they need to support you the best way.

Patient & Client Council

The patient and client council advises Saba Cares on the care we provide to our clients and patients. The council is renewed and is looking for new members, who like to think along with the staff of Saba Cares about how to improve our care. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Franklin Wilson, the chair of the patient and client council by telephone 4165432.

Lifestyle Coaches

Do you want to have help with changing your lifestyle? Saba Cares has two lifestyle coaches: Tammy Christmas and Kamal Thomas. Talk to your doctor or physician assistant. They can advise you themselves on your lifestyle or refer you to a lifestyle coach. Also, other services, such as support with stopping smoking or drinking are available.

Complaint officer

In June our new complaint officer has started. Her name is Luz Nejar. She is also our quality officer. If you want to file a complaint you can complaint via our website or send her an email at complaint.officer@sabacares.org or telephone 4167913.

Patient Liaison

As of July 1st, 2023, Ms. Dorian Neijs commenced in the position as Patient Liaison for clients and their families on Saba and St. Eustatius who are being medically referred to St. Maarten.

Ms. Neijs was born and raised in Holland and has been active in the Social Work Field for 12 years before coming to Sint Maarten, where she is now working in that capacity for the past 5 years. She studied in The Hague, after which she worked in residential, open and closed institutions in Holland and Indonesia.

Ms. Neijs can offer guidance to clients that have challenges in accessing and receiving healthcare. She may act as a spokesperson for the clients and their families to help address their questions and/or concerns. Ms. Neijs can also provide relevant information, advice, guidance, and support to the above clientele.

Do you have a referral to St. Maarten and you are uncertain about the care you will receive? Maybe you need more information about healthcare insurance or may just want some guidance? Contact: +1721 524-5898 or email: info@nivaconsultancy.com

Your Opinion Matters



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We love hearing what you think about our services, what you enjoy and what we can improve. Should something go wrong while we care for your needs you can send us a complaint or a suggestion via our website or contact our complaint officer. We also conduct an annual patient satisfaction survey should you want to share more ideas with us.

If you have a specific question, you can always call us or send an email to the addresses above.