

Meeting summary

Key highlights FPSC meeting: April 14, 2023



Family Practice Services Committee

LFP (Longitudinal Family Physician)

Payment Update

As of today (April 14), 2,767 physicians have registered with the new LFP payment model. This represents 57% of all physicians who billed the CLFP (Community Longitudinal Family Physician) payment code in fiscal year 2021/2022.

The LFP Working Group, which includes Doctors of BC, BC Family Doctors, Ministry of Health and appointed physician representatives, has transitioned into the Primary Care Compensation Working Group. This Working Group now includes FPSC membership and will focus on expanding the payment model to enable billing by longitudinal family physicians for facility-based services including maternity care, inpatient care, long-term care, and palliative care, as well as adapting the payment model to address the needs of rural physicians and communities. There is an October timeline for identifying solutions in these four areas, with implementation to follow soon afterwards.

FPSC is developing options to provide stabilization funding as soon as possible for physicians providing inpatient care, maternity care in hospital, and long-term care. Information will be communicated as soon as possible. There is recognition of the importance of funding to support physicians to provide quality care to patients.

PCNs (Primary Care Networks)

Implementation: As of March 31, 2023, 64 PCNs have received funding and are in the

implementation phase, and there are 21 geographic areas in planning. A geographic area is considered to be 'in planning' from the time they submit an expression of interest (EOI) until their service plan (SP) is approved.

PCN Governance Refresh

The FPSC Co-Chairs, Ted Patterson and Dr Sari Cooper, are preparing a response document to the Transition Working Group's (TWG's) recommendations, which were received in a report on March 15. The Co-Chairs are considering all of the TWG's input and are continuing discussions with key partners.

While this process is ongoing, divisions, health authorities, and CSCs are asked to continue with the excellent collaborative work that is underway locally on PCN planning and implementation. There will not be any changes made to the PCN model until there's a formal response to the TWG.

An update will be provided once next steps have been determined, which is anticipated to take about eight weeks.

Practice Ready Assessment (PRA-BC) Program: Presentation

Dr. Becky Temple, Chair, PRA-BC Steering Committee, and Suzanne Campbell, Executive Director, Physician Programs, HEABC, presented on the PRA-BC program. It offers pathways to licensure, following a national framework, for international medical graduate family physicians who've completed residencies and have practiced independently outside Canada. Historically,

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there are two cohorts: one in spring and one in fall with the spring matches made in December and the fall matches made in June.

The PRA-BC program was started in 2015 and funded through the JSC for rural placements only. Expansion from 16 to 32 spaces occurred in 2019 and has further expanded 41 placements for 2023/24. The expansion, which now also includes urban placements, has been funded through the MoH. The program has demonstrated a high rate of success to date:

- By the end of 2021/22, there were 204 PRA-BC physicians who had been assessed through this program. Of these, 201 successfully completed the program.
- There were return of service placements in 59 communities across BC .
- In 2023/24 the number of funded placements increased from 32 to 41.

PRA-BC has a mandate to expand its program, tripling it from 32 funded assessments to 96 by March 2024. Placements will continue to include both urban and rural settings.

The Ministry is developing an annual allocation and placement process linked to PCNs (but also including communities that have not yet established PCNs). A proposal for a decision making process is underway to allocate where these new placements will be located. An increase in the number of assessors will also be needed to support the expansion. More information will be communicated as it becomes available.