

Meeting summary

Key highlights GPSC meeting: Sept. 23, 2022



General Practice Services Committee

GPSC: Key items and decisions

Welcome Dr Sari Cooper

This was Dr Cooper's first meeting as GPSC Co-Chair. She thanked the committee and spoke about the value of the committee's work and the committee's approach to the work.

In-Patient Care Bridge Funding

Doctors of BC and the Ministry of Health are currently working on a new payment model for longitudinal primary care. As this model expands, we anticipate this will significantly impact the approach to the provision of in-hospital care by community longitudinal family physicians.

As a result, GPSC is extending current levels of funding available to support in-patient care past March 2023, into the next fiscal year (March 2024) until a new payment mechanism is in place to support this work. This includes the [additional bridge funding](#) which was made available last year.

GPSC recognizes that there are family physicians looking after their own patients in the hospital that are not part of an unattached in-patient care program. Many of these physicians are also struggling to maintain this important service under the current compensation model. As we proceed with the next phases of work in developing a new payment mechanism to support in-patient care by family physicians, funding will also apply to this group of physicians. More information will be made available in the coming weeks.

After Hours Care: GPSC & HealthLink BC Collaborative Partnership

GPSC and HealthLink BC are partnering on a pilot program for providing after-hours primary care services. This would help family physicians better meet the requirements of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia to provide after-hours care and improve patient access to primary care. The pilot's initial scope will include service for patients who are part of a participating physician's panel. Future phases would aim to include unattached patients.

The concept is that patients would connect with HealthLink BC for advice after regular after office hours. If the triage nurse identifies that a patient needs primary care from a family physician, then the patient would be connected to an on-call family physician who would offer appropriate guidance, labs, and prescriptions from the longitudinal care perspective. The pilot leverages HealthLink BC's existing infrastructure and institutional expertise while family physicians from participating divisions would provide clinical services over the phone. Physicians would be compensated for providing the service, and they would have access to Care Connect, PharmaNet, and HealthLink EMR.

The program will be piloted in three to four communities across the province. Learnings from the pilot program will inform the future development and implementation of a provincial option for 24/7 coverage.

GPSC approved creating a provincial steering committee with leadership from HealthLink BC and GPSC/Doctors of BC to oversee this work. GPSC also approved support for the pilot's project management, evaluation, engagement, and local administration. The four-month pilot is proposed to launch in January 2023.

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Presentation: Digital Health Strategy and Connected Health System Update

Dawn Lake (Director, Digital Health Strategy, Doctors of BC), Colin King (Enterprise Architect Consultant, PHSA), Michael Tatto (Executive Director, Enterprise Architecture & Strategy & Innovation, PHSA), and Darryl Tourond (PHSA Project Director) presented on the Digital Health Strategy and Connected Health System. The strategy has four strategic objectives: enable patient engagement, improve provider experience, establish a connected health system, and enable the business enterprise. The goal of the connected health system is to digitally connect health care providers, patients and systems across British Columbia, enabling secure clinical information sharing and access.

GPSC Work Plan 2023-24

GPSC Co-Chairs Dr Sari Cooper and Ted Patterson have asked the Physician Services Committee for an extension to the December 9, 2022 deadline for submitting the GPSC Work Plan 2023-24. This will enable the committee and staff to begin the work plan process when there is further information and discussions that are currently underway between the Ministry of Health and Doctors of BC will have concluded.

Cultural Safety and Humility

GPSC was briefed on a number of topics relating to the work of the Joint Collaborative Committees (JCCs) to support cultural safety and humility in health care. Dr Sari Cooper and DR Mitch Fagan represent GPSC on the JCC Cultural Safety and Humility Working Group. The group is working with First Nations representatives in developing a workplan that will focus on offering learning opportunities and providing resources to support physicians to make their practices culturally safe for Indigenous patients. Key initiatives include:

- Cultural safety webinars. These will take place on for November 12, December 8, and January 12 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. [Visit the website to register.](#)
- Longhouse learning sessions in partnership with First Nations communities. In these sessions, physicians experience cultural safety education through interactive cultural learning within First Nations communities, and they connect with local health staff and providers who work in the First Nation community. [To register, complete the web form.](#) Len Pierre is the Indigenous lead and Dr Sari Cooper is the physician lead for this work.
- A poster designed by an Indigenous artist is available to display in medical offices and clinics as a symbol of commitment to culturally safe care. Posters can be ordered by completing [the request form.](#)