

Meeting summary

Key highlights FPSC meeting: Oct. 21 & Dec. 2, 2022



GPSC changes name to FPSC

Following ratification of the Physician Master Agreement (PMA) on December 6, 2022, [GPSC's name changed](#) from the General Practice Services Committee to the Family Practice Services Committee (FPSC). The new name reflects a general shift away from the term "general practice" in favour of "family practice", which reflects the recognized expertise of family physicians. It also highlights the support FPSC offers for the coordinated, continuous, relationship-based care provided by community longitudinal family physicians and practice teams throughout a patient's lifetime.

FPSC welcomes new member

The committee welcomed Dr Janet Evans, a representative from Doctors of BC at the FPSC Core Committee.

New payment model

Work continues to develop the new payment model for family physicians. Work is also underway to develop materials including the payment guide and billing education webinars to support family physicians with the transition to the new model.

PCN (Primary Care Network) governance

FPSC hosted a provincial engagement session on December 7th with leadership from the divisions of Family Practice, Primary Care Networks (PCNs), health authorities, and First Nations Health Authority on the evolution of PCN governance and proposed next steps. Regional engagement sessions will take place in the new year. There was a call for volunteers from across the primary care sector to join a time-limited steering committee to provide recommendations on specific aspects of PCN governance.

The vision for PCNs remains the same: An integrated system of primary and community care where patients have access to care and providers are working to full scope. As a new approach for PCN governance is developed, there will be flexibility, including the options for PCNs to choose to remain unchanged.

Questions may be directed to PCN@doctorsofbc.ca.

PCNs

As of December 2nd, there are 61 PCNs that have received funding and are in the implementation phase.

After hours coverage pilot

Webinars were held the week of December 12th for members of the four divisions participating in FPSC's after hours coverage pilot program. The pilot aims to provide longitudinal family physicians and nurse practitioners with a solution for after hours coverage for their longitudinal patients. The pilot is a partnership between FPSC and Langley, South Island and Victoria, South Okanagan Similkameen, and Thompson Region divisions of family practice, and it's made possible using the infrastructure and expertise of HealthLink BC. It aims to address pain points raised by family physicians such as addressing on-call requirements, lack of compensation, and the burden of organizing after hours coverage. You can [read more about the pilot here](#).

Pilot program for community-based specialists

There was a request from the Shared Care Committee (SSC) and the Community Specialist Working Group for FPSC's practice support program to have a pilot program for community-based specialists. The SSC and FPSC staff who are supporting this work will bring

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back a report and next steps to FPSC after a learning session is held in February 2023.

In-patient care

At the October meeting, FPSC approved expanding in-patient care bridge funding to 13 additional hospitals, bringing the total number receiving funds to 53 hospitals. The expanded eligibility recognizes the commitment of family doctors who provide a significant portion of in-patient care. The funding period will run from Nov. 1st, 2022 to Mar. 31st, 2024. [Read more here.](#)

Nov. 1st & Nov. 2nd events

On November 1st, FPSC, Doctors of BC, the Divisions of Family Practice, BC Family Doctors, and BC College of Family Physicians hosted an in-person event for family practice physician leaders. On November 2nd, FPSC hosted a learning session for the divisions of family practice, which included division-led sharing sessions, structured workshops by subject matter experts, and networking opportunities. Over 150 people attended the events, which featured impactful dialogue and learning.