

# Cardiac Services BC is dedicated to ensuring all British Columbians have access to the best possible cardiac care.

## How we serve the people of BC:

Cardiovascular disease—heart disease, blood vessel disease and stroke—is the number one cause of death for Canadians, and rates are predicted to rise as more people develop age-related risk factors like high blood pressure and diabetes.

Cardiac Services BC plans, coordinates, monitors, evaluates and, in some cases, funds cardiac services across the province in collaboration with senior administrators and physicians in the regional health authorities.

Providing direction and provincial leadership, Cardiac Services BC:

- Establishes a provincial vision, goals and objectives for cardiac services
- Sets provincial standards for access, and ensures the appropriate and timely triage of patients
- Determines priority and allocates sufficient resources to best meet patient needs
- Funds adult tertiary procedures
- Identifies future demand and recommends future initiatives/ technologies
- Collects and analyzes data to ensure the quality of cardiac services across BC

### Goals:

- 1.** Cardiac Services BC's aims to improve the way cardiac services are managed and accessed throughout the province by:
- 2.** Overseeing cardiac disease-related prevention and treatment
- 3.** Ensuring quality access and sustainability within BC's cardiac care system
- 4.** Promoting knowledge translation and system transformation

**1,145**

implantable cardio defibrillators



**59**

laser lead extractions



**2,163**

electrophysiology

2015/16

# Cardiac Services BC oversees cardiac disease-related prevention and treatment services:

- ➔ To include the patient voice in the planning and coordination of cardiac care in BC, patients have been integrated into all committees and quality initiatives.
- ➔ Comprehensive patient/family resources were developed to help heart failure patients manage their condition as part of a multi-year strategy to improve heart failure care in BC. These resources have been adopted by other provinces and by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada for its website.
- ➔ Significant opportunity to reduce repeat procedures and complications following pacemaker implantation was identified and is now the subject of a three-year quality improvement initiative.
- ➔ Access sites for angioplasty (femoral versus radial) were examined as there is less bleeding with the use of radial access. This resulted in a marked shift in practice with more use of radial access leading to better patient outcomes.
- ➔ Variation in the use of contrast during percutaneous coronary interventions was noted through an Interventional Cardiology Quality Review. With higher use of contrast linked to kidney damage, contrast use is now monitored and reduced wherever possible.
- ➔ A quality initiative is underway to increase the adoption of remote monitoring across all regional health authorities to benefit patients with implantable cardiac devices – especially those living in rural or remote communities at great distance from cardiac centres.

## Research and Education

Cardiac Services BC maintains a provincial cardiac information system (HEARTis) that contains clinical and demographic information on every cardiac procedure completed within BC, supplying vital data for ongoing evaluation of cardiac care in BC. It also serves as a critical data source for outcomes research and implementing best practices to improve BC's cardiac care system, enabling Cardiac Services BC to conduct yearly quality reviews for all clinical procedure areas across the province and enabling waitlist management to ensure timely access to care.

Cardiac Services BC supports large research groups including the BC Centre for Improved Cardiovascular Health (ICVHealth), the Canadian Stroke Prevention Intervention Network (C-SPIN) and the Canadian Arrhythmia Network (CANet). Cardiac Services BC's involvement ensures that projects aim for health system change and clinical innovation, and, when possible, include the study of BC-specific cardiac care issues.



**348**

specialized heart surgeries (transcatheter heart valve, ventricular assist devices)

**3,789**

heart surgeries (coronary artery bypass graft and other heart surgery)

**21,421**

cath lab procedures (diagnostic procedures, percutaneous coronary interventions)

2015/16

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 **Cardiac Services BC**  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority