

Maternal Fetal Medicine Telehealth Services

What is it?

BC Children's & Women's Health Centre (BCCW) in Vancouver has been involved with Telehealth since 1997. In 2003, BCCW perinatologists began offering live fetal ultrasound interpretation for women with high risk pregnancies living in remote communities.

Ultrasounds are performed at local health facilities and real-time images are sent to a perinatologist, sitting in front of a high resolution monitor, in Vancouver for immediate review.

The Maternal Fetal Medicine Telehealth program:

- facilitated approximately 94 consultations in 2012-2013;
- serves approximately 40 remote communities across the province; and
- conducts clinical consultations and educational (Grand Rounds) events.

Telehealth complements in-person appointments.

- Patients are usually seen in-person (in Vancouver) for initial assessments.
- Most subsequent appointments for follow-up and support can be offered via distance.
- For high risk pregnant women who can require upwards of 10 ultrasounds during pregnancy, Telehealth can significantly reduce the burdens (e.g. money, stress, adverse weather, bad roads, etc.) associated with travelling to urban centres for treatment.

About Telehealth

Telehealth is the use of live videoconferencing over a secure, high speed provincial network to facilitate clinical consultations, continuing professional education, and administrative collaboration.

Telehealth services are particularly valuable and effective in remote and underserved areas, improving equity of access to quality services and reducing travel burdens.

Telehealth's network consists of over 900 videoconferencing locations at 270 clinical and non-clinical sites. Specialists from nearly 30 clinical services can connect with patients in 117 remote and distant communities, including communities in the Yukon and First Nations communities.

We're here to help!

Whether you're looking to conduct clinical consultations from your office or educational presentations from an auditorium, there's a videoconferencing solution for you. To learn more about how you can use Telehealth in your practice or program, contact the Telehealth team at 604.297.8777 or 1.866.966.4347.

"Some women have fetuses that are at risk of significant anemia. We use frequent ultrasound assessments of fetal brain circulation to diagnose the ones that require further assessments or intra-uterine therapy. One such woman had most of these ultrasounds in Kelowna while being observed in real-time by specialists here at BC Women's."

*Dr. Gerald Marquette
BC Women's Hospital*

Learn more
about Telehealth
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