**Terms of use**

## Inter- and Intra- Health Authority Relocation (IIHAR) toolkit

## Background

Following the 2021 wildfire evacuations, debriefs recognized climate change as a cause for more frequent health care facility evacuations due to wildfires, floods, and other disasters, and pinpointed improvement areas to increase preparedness to such events. Based on these learnings and the need to enhance emergency management and disaster preparedness within health care systems, a province wide working group was formed to focus on safely moving evacuees, with a special focus on long-term care (LTC), assisted living (AL) and independent living (IL) settings.

A major output of this team was the Inter- and Intra- Health Authority Relocation (IIHAR) toolkit, which includes 21 tools and resources designed to standardize and enhance evacuation processes. This toolkit embeds a patient-centered, culturally safe, and risk-based approach throughout evacuation, including activation, coordination, preparedness, transportation, and reception. The toolkit aims to enhance preparedness, clarify roles and responsibilities, improve information management, and facilitate effective communication among all stakeholders.

The working group was led by Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC) and included representatives from across all regional health authorities, the First Nations Health Authority, and the Ministry of Health Emergency Management Unit. The development process was inclusive, involving broad consultation sessions with a diverse group of stakeholders, including operational, clinical, and medical representatives from health authorities, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), and various community partners. This engagement ensured the toolkit addressed the multifaceted aspects of emergency evacuations, from logistical challenges to the nuanced needs of diverse and high-risk patient populations. The toolkit is consistently reviewed and updated to ensure ongoing quality assurance and wise practices are adopted.

## Disclaimer

The IIHAR toolkit may be shared to assist with and support operational planning for events that require the relocation of patients. The decision to use the IIHAR toolkit is the responsibility of each organization and/or site and all approvals for the use/adaption of the IIHAR tools are the responsibility of each organization and/or site. Any changes, amendments and adaptations or partial use of any and/or all of the IIHAR toolkit by other organizations are not the responsibility of HEMBC. Additionally, HEMBC is not liable nor responsible for any outcomes from the use of the IIHAR toolkit by other organizations and/or sites in various jurisdictions (local, provincial, federal, private, etc.).

## More information

Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC) is a program of PHSA that provides emergency management leadership and support to the health authorities in BC through expertise, education, tools, and support to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of emergency events; ensuring the continuity of health care services.

If you have any questions about the intention, functionality, or adoption of these materials, please contact the HEMBC working group at iihar@phsa.ca.