

# Medical Staff Newsletter

## August 2025

**August 27, 2025**

*Estimated reading time: 6 minutes*

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*\*denotes readers will need to be on-site or access the PHSA network remotely to view these pages.*

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## Updates and Reminders:

### 1. BEACON Nominations Close September 9

Nominations are open for Cohort 2 of the [BEACON Medical Staff Leadership Program](#), a 24-month learning and mentorship opportunity for physicians, dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and clinical scientists at any PHSA program or service.

BEACON builds future-ready leaders through in-person modules, mentorship, and real-world projects, with a focus on equity, culturally safe care, and health system transformation. It includes seven in-person modules, each two days long, supported by mentorship, hands-on learning, and additional workshops.

The first module is expected to begin in March 2026.

Connect with your leader if interested. Leaders can submit nominations through the button below by **September 9, 2025**.

[Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

For more information, please email: [BEACON@phsa.ca](mailto:BEACON@phsa.ca).

## 2. Updated Hub for Development and Engagement: ASCEND

The [Your Development](#) page of the PHSA medical staff website will soon be updated and renamed Development & Engagement. The refreshed page will feature new content and reorganized resources to make it easier for you to find information about professional development, leadership, and engagement opportunities offered through PHSA's new Advancement and Skill Development Centre for Engagement and Development (ASCEND).

As part of this update, you will see new pages added to expand available resources and some existing pages moved to new locations for easier navigation. All current content will remain available, but in a more streamlined and user-friendly format.

Once the changes are live, we encourage you to explore the updated page, bookmark it for quick access, and share any feedback you may have.

For questions or more information, please contact Candice Manahan, executive director, Medical Staff Quality & Engagement at: [candice.manahan@phsa.ca](mailto:candice.manahan@phsa.ca).

## 3. ICYMI: Cycle 2 of SCRIBE BC Launches Sept 2

Medical & Academic Affairs is pleased to announce the launch of the **Cycle 2 of SCRIBE BC - Secure, Compliant, Responsible Implementation of Ambient AI for BC**. This trial initiative is part of our commitment to supporting clinical efficiency and reducing the time providers spend on clinical documentation.

There will be three cycles of trials, each six weeks in length with Cycle 1 having started July 21 and running through to September 1, 2025.

Cycle 1 is wrapping up, and if you haven't yet had the chance to participate, now is the time. Each participant can trial one of six approved AI scribe tools for your speciality for six weeks, with the option to continue at a discounted rate afterward. **Tool choice is first-come, first-served, and the signup period is a limited duration.**

### Key Dates:

- **Cycle 2 Sign-up opens:** Sept 2, 2025 at 12:01 am
- **Cycle 2 Sign-up closes:** Sept 9, 2025 at 11:59 pm
- **Cycle 2 Trial Period:** Sept 9 – Oct 21, 2025

Next step: [Sign up here](#) (health authority email required).

Once registered, vendor onboarding support will be provided to help ensure a smooth start and effective use of the selected tool.

Already using one of these tools (Heidi, Empathia, Autoscribe, Tali, Scribeberry, Autochart.ai) and want to purchase a discounted license without trialing? Please still complete the [sign-up form](#) and select “Pay for the discounted AI scribe subscription” when prompted. You’ll then receive instructions to access a 50% discount for one year (approved versions only).

#### Important guidance about using AI scribe tools:

- You must obtain verbal consent from the patient. Consent is necessary because the scribe must make a temporary recording of the clinical interview.
- You may only use scribes purchased through HIM. Scribes purchased through this project are covered by contracts with specific privacy and security protections.
- You must review each note for accuracy. The large language models that power scribes will occasionally make mistakes that you will need to find and correct.
- You must continue to manually enter allergies and other essential data into the CST Cerner system.
- Residents and medical students are not eligible to participate in this program at this time.
- Costs for the use of the AI Scribe tools outside of the trial will be borne by the providers that decide to use them and not the health authorities.

If you have questions or need support, our internal team is available via this [link \(accessible via HA network\)](#), or via email at [aiscribesupport@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:aiscribesupport@providencehealth.bc.ca)

Thank you for your continued engagement in this important initiative. **Your participation will signal the value of these tools for medical staff.**

#### 4. Help Improve Access to Documents in SHOP

Medical staff are invited to help test a new AI-enabled digital assistant designed to improve search accuracy and reduce the time it takes to locate information in SHOP. Developed by researchers at BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute (BCCHRI) with Provincial Digital Health and Information Services, the prototype will be evaluated against the current SHOP search interface to assess effectiveness.

Participation starts with a [brief screening questionnaire](#). Eligible participants will be contacted by the study team and given a link to choose a convenient date and time for a one-hour, one-on-one session. This session includes a 30-minute simulated search exercise and two short surveys before and one after the exercise.

Questions can be directed to Haley Foladare, research coordinator, BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, at: [Haley.Foladare@bcchr.ca](mailto:Haley.Foladare@bcchr.ca).

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## In the News:

## 5. Update from Ministry of Health: Telehealth Group Visit Fee Codes

During the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary measures were introduced to expand access to virtual care, including larger group sizes for Group Medical Visits (GMVs). In the post-pandemic period, the Ministry of Health worked with Doctors of BC to strengthen virtual care services and developed new Telehealth Group Medical Visit (TGMV) fee codes. These codes are designed to support high-quality care by setting limits on group size and clarifying billing rules, including the requirement for one-on-one interactions between physicians and patients.

Feedback from physicians and other stakeholders raised concerns about how the new framework might affect access to certain medically necessary services, particularly for patients with complex needs and those in rural or remote communities. The Ministry is committed to ensuring the fee structure supports equitable access and reflects the diverse needs of patients across the province, while making necessary changes to support quality of care.

Ongoing discussions with Doctors of BC and other partners will help refine the fee structure and billing guidelines to support the high-quality care that is needed and better align with evolving models of care. To allow time for this continued work, the Ministry has postponed the rollout of the new TGMV fee codes to January 1, 2026.

## 6. Dr. Ran Goldman Appointed at HAMAC Chair

[As announced earlier this month](#), the PHSA Board of Directors have appointed Dr. Ran Goldman to be the next chair of the Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC) for a three-year term, effective August 1, 2025.

Dr. Goldman is assuming the role from Dr. Eric Webber, who has served as the inaugural chair since PHSA's HAMAC was established in July 2021.

As HAMAC chair, Dr. Goldman's priorities include:

- Strengthening communication between local medical advisory committees and the PHSA board
- Supporting medical staff in uniting teams to deliver high-quality care across BC
- Advancing compassionate, equitable care through innovative and efficient models
- Collaborating on system-wide health human resource planning and enhancing care

Dr. Goldman is a pediatric emergency physician at BC Children's Hospital and has held leadership roles in clinical pharmacology, including over a decade as Chair of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals. He brings significant experience in clinical care, health services research, and academic leadership.

Please join us in thanking Dr. Webber for his service and congratulating Dr. Goldman on his appointment.

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## PHSA Operational & Leaders' News

- Read the latest [PHSA Operational News](#) and [Leaders' News](#)\*:
  - [Mark your calendars for our next PHSA town hall on Sept. 11](#)
  - [PHSA budget review](#)
  - Unique PHSA stories this week
  - Jobs of the week

## Ongoing Resources:

- Check out the [Medical Staff webpages](#) on phsa.ca for information and resources for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical scientists and physicians.
- Learn about [health and wellness](#) resources to support you.
- Looking for past issues of the Medical Staff Newsletter? Visit our Communications [page](#).
- Visit [POD](#) for stories about our workforce and supporting resources\*.