Overview

The Department of Pharmacy is a clinical department with major teaching, medication distribution and research functions, serving BC Children’s Hospital, BC Women’s Hospital + Health Centre and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children.

The pharmacy has two main roles in the hospital: providing clinical services and drug distribution services.

Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants work together to provide clinical and drug distribution services for patients. The department is also involved in important research and therapeutic drug monitoring directed towards progressive patient care.

Clinical pharmacy services are varied. Pharmacists participate in patient care rounds, discharge counselling and conducting therapeutic drug monitoring.

Pharmacy staff ensure safe medication practices by determining appropriateness of therapy, checking for drug interactions, reviewing medication history and checking for allergies.
Each day, the pharmacy at BC Children’s Hospital and BC Women’s Hospital + Health Centre prepares over 500 intravenous (IV) medications, 25-50 nutrition IVs and 1500 doses of oral medications.

In addition to providing pharmacy services from the main pharmacy in the existing BC Children’s Hospital (1982 building), pharmacy services will be provided in two key areas in the new Teck Acute Care Centre.

• **Floor 3** - a 24 hour Critical Care satellite pharmacy, supporting critical care services co-located horizontally and vertically with the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

• **Floor 8** - a satellite pharmacy in the Oncology/Hematology/BMT Program will prepare chemotherapy treatment on-demand.

A pneumatic tube system will connect the main pharmacy with the two satellite pharmacies. The hospital pneumatic tube system transports practically everything that fits into a carrier: medicine, laboratory samples, emergency samples, units of stored blood, x-rays and documents. By doing so, it creates a direct connection between all hospital areas, such as the pharmacy, blood banks, outpatient departments, nursing stations, reception or administration offices, which saves time and provides faster access to care for patients.

**Benefits for Patients, Families, Staff and Physicians:**

- **New satellite pharmacy on the oncology unit** will embed pharmacy into the care team further enhancing communication between care providers and pharmacy staff, as well as ensuring quicker delivery of specialized medications to patients

- **New critical care satellite pharmacy** will maintain close pharmacy presence near NICU and PICU, to provide clinical and medication distribution services

- New facilities and technology will help recruit and retain staff and will provide staff and physicians with the opportunity to practice and enhance family-centred care

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[1.855.857.3897](tel:1.855.857.3897)  
[cwredevelopment@cw.bc.ca](mailto:cwredevelopment@cw.bc.ca)  
[newcw.ca](http://newcw.ca)

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