

## Referring a Patient for Gender-Affirming Surgery

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Completed surgical readiness assessments will be returned to the primary care provider who will then make the surgical referral as follows:

### Chest construction

- Surgeries are done in British Columbia by plastic surgeons trained to perform mastectomy plus chest contouring. Referrals for chest surgery should be sent using the [referral form for upper surgery](#) and faxed to the central waitlist held by **Trans Care BC : 604-675-7464**
- Your patient will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted as to their surgeon of choice.

### Breast construction (augmentation)

- Surgeries are done in British Columbia by any plastic surgeon trained to perform breast construction, but are only available under special circumstances (Less than AA cup breast development or > 1.5 cup size asymmetry after at least 18 months on hormone therapy). The surgeon will assess the patient and complete the funding application if indicated. You may refer your patient to the surgeon of your choice or contact the RACE Line for information on surgeons providing trans care. For the group of surgeons who also offer chest surgery, they will accept referrals for breast surgery via the Trans Care BC central waitlist.

### Hysterectomy & bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy

- In British Columbia these procedures are done by any gynecologist. Please refer your patient to the surgeon of your choice or contact the RACE Line for information on surgeons providing trans care.

### Orchiectomy

- This is done concurrently with vaginoplasty/vulvoplasty. When this procedure is done alone, any urologist in British Columbia can do the surgery. Please refer your patient to the surgeon of your choice or contact the RACE Line for information on surgeons providing trans care.

### Vaginoplasty or simple vulvoplasty (includes orchiectomy if not done previously)

- Generally completed in Montreal at GRS Montreal: [www.grsmontreal.com](http://www.grsmontreal.com)
- Please refer your patient to **Drs. Belanger, Bensimon and Brassard** by faxing the information to **1-514-288-3547**.
- Once the referral has been made, ask your patient to contact GRS Montreal by telephone: **1-514-288-2097** or email: [info@grsmontreal.com](mailto:info@grsmontreal.com) to initiate their surgical booking.

## Phalloplasty, metoidioplasty and clitoral release

- Generally completed in Montreal at GRS Montreal: [www.grsmontreal.com](http://www.grsmontreal.com)
- Please refer your patient to **Drs. Belanger, Bensimon and Brassard** by faxing the information to **1-514-288-3547**.
- Once the referral has been made, ask your patient to contact GRS Montreal by telephone: **1-514-288-2097** or email: [info@grsmontreal.com](mailto:info@grsmontreal.com) to initiate their surgical booking.
- Please note some of these procedures are done in stages requiring multiple trips to Montreal.

## Please ensure the following information is included at the time of a referral to GRS Montreal:

- Brief referral letter from GP or NP. Include any relevant clinical details not covered in the surgical recommendation form, e.g., BMI.
- If > 6 months since assessment was completed, include an update of your patient's mental and physical health and readiness for surgery and communicate any significant changes the surgical team needs to be aware of.
- Copies of the surgical recommendation form(s) (Form A, and Form B or equivalent narrative letter(s).
- If Applicable- hysterectomy/BSO pathology report and operative report
- Any other relevant consult reports (e.g. recent cardiology, endocrinology reports)
- [Health Status Information Questionnaire & Consent to disclose information between GRS Montreal & GP](#)
- [Authorization for release of information between GRS Montreal & Trans Care BC](#)

## Out-of-country Surgery

- In situations of medical complexity, a hospital-based surgical facility may be recommended for patient safety for those undergoing these procedures. In this case, surgery in the US may be possible through application to the out of country program. Patients need to be assessed by a qualified specialist who, if appropriate, will complete the OOC application.
- Patients seeking out of country surgery should contact the Trans Care BC **Care Coordination team** at **1-866-999-1514** for further information.
- Detailed information about the out-of-country program can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/benefits/services-covered-by-msp/medical-benefits/medical-benefits-outside-of-british-columbia>

For more detailed information about any of these procedures please refer to the TCBC website at [www.transcarebc.ca](http://www.transcarebc.ca).

If you require assistance in supporting your patient post-operatively, please contact the Trans Care BC Care Coordination team at: **1-866-999-1514**. This team can also be accessed on an ongoing basis to support any clinical questions you may have. In addition, the RACE Line remains available to you. To access the RACE Line please call **604-696-2131** or toll free at **1-877-696-2131** and request the Transgender option.

Hope Air is a charity that provides free flights for financially disadvantaged Canadians for medically necessary travel. Should your patient require assistance with flight expenses please recommend they apply by filling in the online application at [www.hopeair.ca](http://www.hopeair.ca). In some cases Hope Air will also cover the costs for a companion to travel with the patient if deemed medically necessary. Hope Air will contact you to verify some details related to the patient's travel needs.

In addition please find details of the Travel Assistance Program (TAP) as an option for assistance with transportation costs;

- a) For eligible B.C. residents who must travel within province for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community - <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/tap-bc/travel-assistance-program-tap-bc>
- b) Non-Local Medical Transportation Assistance - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/health-supplements-and-programs/medical-transportation>