Transgender/Trans* Health

Gender-Affirming Surgery

Vanessa Barron
Create a Gender-Affirming Surgical program in British Columbia and increase access to publicly funded readiness assessments, upper surgeries, and information about procedures, process, and wait times.
Outcome and Recommendation #1

**Outcome:**
Increase access to information about gender-affirming surgery

**Recommendation:**
Include detailed information about surgical procedures and process flow for patients and providers on a centralized website

Conduct a patient care experience survey
Include detailed information about surgical procedures and process flow for patients and providers on a centralized website

**Implementation Steps:**

**0 - 6 mths**

**Community consultation**
- Determine what type of information should be available on-line
- Development a survey about surgical experience and outcomes

**6 - 12 mths**
- Gather information including pre/post op care from surgeons, procedures, Readiness Assessment forms etc.
- Conduct the survey

**12 - 18 mths**
- Add updated information and survey results to a central website
- Evaluation: re website information needs - **Community consultation**
Outcome and Recommendation #2

**Outcome:**
Increase provincial access to Assessors to improve wait times

**Recommendation:**
Ensure a minimum of four publicly funded Assessors per Health Authority to provide hormone and surgical readiness assessments and care plans (*link with Primary Care recommendation*)
Ensure a minimum of four publicly funded Assessors per Health Authority to provide hormone readiness and surgical eligibility assessments.

**Implementation Steps:**

**0 - 6 mths**
- Funding in place for Assessors

**6 - 12 mths**
- Assessor training sessions provided

**12 - 18 mths**
- Assessor mentoring in place
- Track and monitor wait times for surgical readiness assessments
Outcome and Recommendation #3

Outcome:
Increase transparency of wait times

Recommendations:
Create a centralized system for tracking and managing wait times for surgical readiness assessments and post on website.

Add gender-affirming surgeries to the Surgical Patient Registry to ensure public access to information about BC surgical wait times.
Create a system of tracking Assessment and Surgical wait times and post on website

**Implementation Steps:**

**0 - 6 mths**
- Development of a tracking spreadsheet in progress for surgical readiness assessment
- Communication/education for surgeons for coding purposes

**6 - 12 mths**
- Implement processes for ongoing tracking
- Post data on website at regular intervals

**12 - 18 mths**
- Monitor and evaluate readiness assessment wait times and surgical wait times
Outcome and Recommendation #4

Outcome:

Improve follow-up care for lower gender-affirming surgeries

Recommendations:

Establish a Resource Nurse role for post-op lower surgery follow-up.

Improve clinical information-sharing between BC providers and surgical centers
Establish a Resource Nurse role and improve information sharing with surgical centres

**Implementation Steps:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0 - 6 mths</th>
<th>6 - 12 mths</th>
<th>12 - 18 mths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Develop a resource nurse role/job description and recruit</td>
<td>• Orientation and training</td>
<td>• Follow-up care provided to patients</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Work with surgery centres to improve provider-to-provider information sharing</td>
<td>• Develop processes and procedures for follow-up care</td>
<td>• Ongoing collaboration with surgical centres and primary health care providers</td>
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Outcome:  
Increase provincial access to upper surgeries

Recommendations:  
Increase the number of upper surgeries performed in BC over the next year

Change breast growth criteria for feminizing upper surgery

Track provincial demand and capacity for upper surgeries for inclusion in the surgical program business case
Increase the number of upper surgeries for one year, track demand and change surgical criteria

Implementation Steps:

0 - 6 mths
• Resources in place to increase the number of upper surgeries
• Process to change criteria for feminizing upper surgery started

6 - 12 mths
• Ongoing data analysis to determine provincial need

12 - 18 mths
• Add upper surgery considerations to the business case for feasibility of a BC Gender-Affirming Surgical Program
Outcome and Recommendation #6

**Outcome:**
Create a gender-affirming surgical program in BC

**Interim Recommendations:**
- Fund aftercare costs for surgery at GRS in Montreal
- Provide additional options for access to lower surgery outside of Canada
- Develop a business case to determine the feasibility of a BC Gender-Affirming Surgical Program
Provide additional options for access to lower surgery and develop a business case to determine feasibility of a gender-affirming surgical program in BC

**Implementation Steps:**

0 - 6 mths
- Approval for options related to lower surgery coverage – post op care in Montreal and programs in the U.S.

6 - 12 mths
- Roles in place to begin business case development

12 - 18 mths
- Submit business case for feasibility of a BC Gender-Affirming Surgical Program to the Ministry of Health
Recommendation Timeline

0-1.5 yrs
- On-line information about gender-affirming surgery in place (including wait time data and survey results)
- Resource nurse for surgical follow-up in place
- Increase volume of upper surgeries
- Alternative options to access lower surgery in place

1.5 yrs – 3 yrs
- Publicly funded Assessors in each health authority
- Assessment and surgical data tracked & trended
- Criteria for upper surgery changed
- Business case for feasibility of a gender-affirming surgical program complete
- If approved, detailed planning for surgical program begins

3 yrs – 5 yrs
- Implementation of a gender-affirming surgical program
Questions

Please write 1-3 questions on the "green" index cards in your package.