Provincial Health Services Authority

Medical Staff Newsletter

August 19, 2026
Estimated reading time: 9 minutes

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

Updates and Reminders:

1. Recruitment Underway for Chief Medical Officer Positions at both BC Women's Hospital and BC Children's Hospital

With PHSA's clinically focused mandate now clearly articulated, recruitment has begin for permanent chief medical officer positions at both BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre. These positions represent an important opportunity to help shape the future of care, clinical excellence and medical leadership across the C&W campus.

While both positions are now posted, recruitment will be phased, with the search for the BC Women's chief medical officer proceeding first, followed by recruitment for BC Children's. This approach will help maintain medical leadership continuity across the campus throughout the transition. To support this work, an executive search firm has been engaged to assist with recruitment.

Interested candidates can learn more and apply using the links below:

- Provincial Health Services Authority- Chief Medical Officer, BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre - PFM Executive Search
- Provincial Health Services Authority - Chief Medical Officer, BC Children's Hospital - PFM Executive Search

Thank you to Dr. Caron Strahlendorf, interim chief medical officer at BC Children's Hospital, and Dr. Roanne Preston, interim chief medical officer at BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre, who are providing thoughtful, steady and impactful leadership during a significant period of change.

2. Clarifying PHSA's Future Role as a Provincial Provider of Specialized Clinical Care

As mentioned in the all-staff bulletin sent on August 12*, the Ministry of Health has endorsed recommendations in defining PHSA's future role as a provincial provider of specialized clinical care and clarifying the services that BC Shared Health Services (BCSHS) will deliver.

With government's decision to refine PHSA's mandate, PHSA will shift from providing a number of services on behalf of other health authorities to becoming a client of BCSHS for some non-clinical services. In the months ahead, leaders will assess the implications of this evolution to ensure clarity on priorities across PHSA's specialized programs with a sharp focus on improving health outcomes.

As previously announced by BCSHS interim president & CEO Tiffany Ma*, BCSHS will design an operating model and lead transition planning to assume these services in 2027:

- BC Renal (including PROMIS)
- Cardiac Services BC (including PRISM)
- Health Improvement Networks
    - Child Health BC
    - Critical Care BC
    - Cystic Fibrosis Care BC
    - Emergency Care BC
    - Pain Care BC
    - PICNet
    - Perinatal Services BC
    - Stroke Services BC
    - Trauma Services BC
- Cochlear Implant planning
- The Provincial Medical Imaging Office

- Provincial pharmacy system planning and design responsibilities
- Student Practice Education (including HSPnet)
- Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC) planning and coordination responsibilities

From the Provincial Clinical Planning Programs and Partnerships (PCPPP) portfolio, Trans Care BC and BC Transplant will remain within PHSA because of their close integration with specialized clinical services, while continuing to work in partnership with BCSHS. HEMBC's disaster psychosocial supports program will also remain within PHSA, alongside the Retinal Disease Treatment Program.

Thank you to medical staff for your ongoing commitment to our patients, families and communities, and for the professionalism and dedication you continue to demonstrate as we shape the next chapter of PHSA together.

3. Update on the Resident Doctors of BC Collective Agreement

The Health Employers Association of BC and Resident Doctors of BC have updated their collective agreement for the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2029. The agreement includes a range of changes designed to better support resident physicians throughout their training, with a focus on compensation, workplace protections, health and wellness, and leave provisions.

Highlights include wage and call pay increases, support for educational and exam-related expenses, enhanced health and safety commitments, expanded leave entitlements, and additional employment protections. Together, these changes aim to improve the resident experience by promoting a safer, more inclusive learning and working environment.

The full list of summary changes can be found here.

For questions, please contact the academic representative for your clinical program or reach out to the PHSA Medical & Academic Affairs Medical Learner Education Committee (MLEC) leads: Titus Wong, Stephen Dunne, or Claire Brown.

In the News:

4. Welcoming New Leaders to BEACON

PHSA Medical Staff Development & Engagement is pleased to welcome Dr. Angie Ip as the new Medical Lead, BEACON, and Dr. Suzanne Carlisle as the new BEACON Curriculum Advisor. Both leaders were members of the first cohort of the BEACON Medical Leadership Program.

As BEACON Medical Lead, Dr. Ip will co-lead operations within BEACON, including guiding the design, delivery and evolution of the program, covering curriculum development, participant support, program evaluation and strengthening BEACON as a leadership development experience for medical staff across PHSA.

Thank you to Dr. Jeff Pike for his contributions to BEACON during his time as executive medical director, Medical Staff Engagement and Development. A new periodical "The BEACON Effect" has been created to highlight the impact of medical leadership and the BEACON program. The inaugural issue recognizes Jeff'ss contributions to BEACON and its development.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Angie Ip and Dr. Suzanne Carlisle to their new roles.

5. New Issue of Quality Connections Now Available

The Quality Connections newsletter* launched the third issue this summer! The newsletter includes highlights and updates from the PHSA Physician Quality Improvement, Spread Quality Improvement, and Alumni Network Programs under the Department of Medical Affairs.

To get on the distribution list, please contact us: PQI@phsa.ca

6. New Provincial Practice Guidance for Staff Providing Services to People Who Use Substances

The BC Centre for Disease Control and First Nations Health Authority have recently published a Harm Reduction Manual* for staff, including medical staff, who provide services to people who use substances. It aims to support the delivery of high-quality harm reduction services across a range of health and social service settings and across the system of substance use care.

The manual was developed over several years and brings together best practice guidance. It is available online and will be updated regularly to ensure it stays current and useful for everyday practice.

Medical staff can sign up to the BCCDC email list to get an update whenever the content changes and watch this webinar to learn more about the manual and how to use.

Upcoming Events and Courses:

7. Wellness and Learning Rounds – Shaping Care Through Planetary Health

This fall, the Medical Staff Wellness and Learning Rounds will explore the conditions that shape care, beginning in September with a session on planetary health and the role medical staff can play in supporting more environmentally sustainable practice.

Health care delivery has a substantial environmental footprint, but meaningful change can begin with practical, local action. Through real-world projects, participants will learn how leadership support, targeted education and frontline staff agency can help small eco-friendly

actions grow into broader impact, with practical examples that may be adapted within departments, teams or practice settings.

Date: September 17, 2026
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00pm
Format: Virtual session with presentation and discussions
Presented by: Dr. Maura Brown, department head, diagnostic imaging, BC Cancer – Vancouver and climate action and sustainability leader.

Click here to register

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In October the series will continue with a session on Indigenous-specific anti-racism, exploring how anti-racism moves from intention to everyday practice, culture and accountability.

8. Indigenous Cultural Safety Community-Based Experiential Learning Sessions

The Joint Collaborative Committees (JCCs), a partnership between Doctors of BC and the Government of British Columbia, are hosting community-based experiential learning sessions across the province in collaboration with Len Pierre Consulting.

The immersive, community-based sessions offer cultural safety and humility teachings that support ongoing efforts to address Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in health care.

Registration is open for the following sessions:

- **Victoria (Songhees, Xʷsepsəm and W̱SÁNEĆ)** | September 16, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Port Alberni (Tseshaht)** | October 6, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Vancouver (Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm)** | November 18, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **West Vancouver (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw)** | November 25, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sessional funding, dinner and mileage reimbursement (for travel exceeding 50 km one way) are available to participating physicians. Interprofessional team members who work alongside physicians are also welcome to attend, with stipends available for non-salaried participants.

Space is limited to 60 participants per session. Venue details will be provided upon registration.

Click here to learn more and to register

9. Fall DEI Education Offerings – Now Open for Registration

Medical staff who want to build practical skills for safer, more equitable patient care can explore PHSA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) courses. These courses use healthcare-specific scenarios to help learners apply DEI, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive principles in their daily practice.

Whether starting a DEI learning journey or looking to deepen knowledge and practice, the interactive courses provide practical tools and meaningful opportunities for reflection, dialogue, and action.

View the full Fall course schedule and register using this link.

For more information, contact: askdei@phsa.ca.

10. Register Now for the BC Sepsis Symposium September Series

Registration is now open for the 3rd Annual BC Resuscitation Sciences Series: ***Beyond Survival – A Sepsis Symposium for Systems, Science and Recovery***, presented by Critical Care BC, Emergency Care BC, Child Health BC and Health Quality BC.

Scheduled around World Sepsis Day on September 13, four sessions will be held virtually, and free of charge:

- **September 1**: Setting the Context
- **September 10:** Sepsis Care Trajectory: Prehospital, Emergency Department, and Guidelines
- **September 22**: Optimizing Recovery and the Future of Sepsis
- **September 29:** Pediatric Sepsis: Advances, Insights, and Opportunities

Note: All sessions take place on MS Teams from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Participants are welcome to attend individual sessions or the full series. Learn more and register on the Critical Care BC learning webpage – please share this page with your networks.

For more information, please contact Sybil Hoiss at sybil.hoiss@phsa.ca.

PHSA Operational & Leaders' News

- Read the latest PHSA Operational News and Leaders' News*:
  - An important step in defining PHSA's future mandate
  - Deep appreciation for the teams responding to wildfires across BC
  - 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*.