Provincial Health Services Authority

Medical Staff Newsletter

Nov. 25, 2026
Estimated reading time: 2 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. Supporting the transition to the new provincial government

With BC's new government and cabinet now in place, PHSA and the health authorities are actively supporting the transition and helping orient new government and ministry leadership to our organization, programs and services.

As outlined in the BC government news release, Ryan Peterson, the MLA for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain, has been appointed Minister of Health, with Peter Pokorny serving as Deputy Minister of Health. Over the coming weeks, this transition work may include information requests and site tours as the new government begins work to advance its priorities as outlined in the Health Minister's mandate letter.

Medical staff play an important role in helping provide a coordinated response. If you receive a government-related request, including request for program information, a meeting, a site visit or tour involving an elected official or their representative, please connect with your program leadership and your Communications representative before making arrangements so we can support you. This will help us ensure requests are

coordinated across PHSA and that we are providing timely, clear information to support the new government.

2. Updates to medical leadership at C&W

Recent updates to medical leadership at BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals reflect our ongoing commitment to strong leadership, collaboration and high-quality patient care.

Dr. Caron Strahlendorf has agreed to serve as chief medical officer at BC Children's Hospital for a one-year term, effective immediately. Having provided thoughtful and impactful leadership as interim chief medical officer over the past year, Dr. Strahlendorf's appointment will provide continued stability in medical leadership at BC Children's while supporting a thoughtful transition to the hospital's next chief medical officer.

Dr. Roanne Preston will be concluding her term as interim chief medical officer at BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre, effective Nov. 30, 2026.

Dr. Julia Charlton has agreed to serve as interim chief medical officer at BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre, effective December 1 while recruitment for the permanent BC Women's chief medical officer position remains active.

3. Guardians of Health Records: How release of information works

Release of Information (ROI) professionals help ensure that information is protected and shared only with the right people, at the right time and for the right reasons – protecting vulnerable individuals, navigating complex privacy and access requests, supporting informed decision-making, and maintaining public trust in the handling of personal health information.

ROI teams within Health Information Management (HIM) balance patient rights, privacy legislation, organizational policy and clinical considerations to ensure disclosures are appropriate, secure and compliant.

New resources are available to support awareness of the important work performed by ROI specialists.

Learn more at Guardians of Health Records: How Release of Information Works

4. New email warning for sensitive patient information

Starting Dec. 7, 2026, you may see a policy tip in Outlook when emailing sensitive patient information (such as PHNs, SINs, or other confidential identifiers) to recipients outside BC health organizations using your health authority email address. This includes community partners, external agencies, divisions of family practice, etc.

- The policy tip is informational only and will not block or delay your email.
- Take a moment to confirm the recipient is correct before sending.
- When sharing sensitive information externally, use Secure File Transfer whenever appropriate.
- Protecting patient privacy and confidentiality is everyone's responsibility.

Learn more: Visit InfoCentre (must be on the network to view) for information on data loss prevention and protecting patient information.

PHSA Operational & Leaders' News

- Read the latest PHSA Operational News and Leaders' News*:
  - New BC government, Health Minister and Ministry of Health Leadership*
  - Support Indigenous-owned businesses 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*.