

Learn more about the Specialist Services Committee



The Specialist Services Committee, a partnership of the Government of BC and Doctors of BC and one of four Joint Collaborative Committees, is responsible for collaborating on the delivery of specialist services and supporting improvement of the specialist care system in BC. By focusing on three priority areas – Developing Physician Capability, Engaging Physicians and Partners, and Transforming Care Delivery – the SSC has created a funding ecosystem that supports specialists to train, engage and collaborate within the health system, and lead health system improvement.

SSC improves patient care by engaging physicians to:



Develop Physician Capability

Helping specialist physicians develop leadership and quality improvement skills to effectively lead and champion change.



Engage Physicians & Partners

Strengthening relationships between physicians, health authorities and partners, so that collaboratively we can address health system challenges and support quality patient care.



Transform Care Delivery

Improving key patient care and health system priorities as delivered by specialist physicians.



Develop Physician Capability

Physician Quality Improvement (PQI)

WHAT IT IS

A physician-centered Quality Improvement training program that fosters system improvements within the BC health system

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Funded access to 3 levels of training and support from a QI-trained team situated in each Health Authority

Impact

Since inception:

over 1,600 physicians trained in QI

700 physician-led learning action projects

In 2022:



97% of physicians reported that engaging in PQI directly helped address an issue of importance to them and their colleagues.



90% of physicians reported they will immediately be able to apply their PQI learnings in their work.

" PQI has been an incredible engagement tool and a significant vehicle for the prevention of burn out and promotion of resiliency and wellness. "

- PQI ALUM

Physician Leadership Scholarship

WHAT IT IS

Funding physician access to a diversity of courses and conferences including leadership development and quality improvement

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Up to \$10,000 allowance to use towards tuition, registration and expenses

Impact



98.4% of physicians reported that the courses/conferences/coaching completed through PLS was a good use of their time.



97.4% of physicians reported that they would be able to immediately apply what they learned.

UBC Sauder Physician Leadership Program

WHAT IT IS

An innovative program designed to deliver the leadership knowledge, behaviors, and skills that senior physicians need to effectively engage in the planning, delivery, and transformation of the health care system

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Funded tuition and reimbursement for travel and accommodations when attending in-person sessions

Impact

The program has supported:

20 cohorts

700 physician graduates



Engage Physicians & Partners

Facility Engagement Initiative

WHAT WE DO

Strengthen relationships, communication, and collaboration between physicians and health authorities

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Funding and support, provided through 77 Medical Staff Associations across the province, to engage with colleagues and partners around issues that matter to physicians

Impact

Since 2016:

over 6,000 physician participants have participated in Facility Engagement.

In 2021–2022:



81% of Medical Staff Associations and Health Authority partners reported increased physician/site health authority engagement.



87% of Medical Staff Associations reported strengthened physician-to-physician engagement.

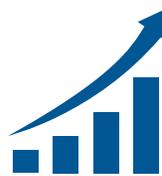
Supporting Community-Based Specialists

WHAT WE DO

Engage, support, and provide a voice for community based specialists (those without hospital or health authority privileges)

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Networking opportunities with colleagues and funded access to the Spoken Language Translation services, CareConnect, and UpToDate



Transform Care Delivery

Surgical Patient Optimization Collaborative

WHAT IT IS

An evidence-based approach to support elective surgical patient pre-habilitation

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Support and guidance from trained QI staff and project managers, access to a network of engaged surgical colleagues, and use of data collection tools and analysis expertise

Impact

Through their SPOC Projects, physicians have influenced:

decrease in length of hospital stay, morbidity, cancellations, anemia, smoking, substance use, anxiety, pain, and frailty.

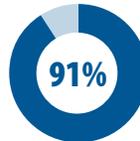
improved nutritional status, glycemic control, and physical activity.

For patients:

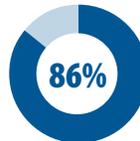
more than 7,000 patients screened for health conditions affecting a patient's recovery after elective surgery.



90% of patients were successfully prehabilitated through mental and physical preparations before surgery.



91% of patients reported improved experiences.



86% reported better surgical outcomes.

"Physicians have played a more significant role than ever before in influencing how services develop and evolve in the North. Having that medical perspective and advice has made a huge difference."

— DR RONALD CHAPMAN, VP OF MEDICINE, NORTHERN HEALTH



Transform Care Delivery

Perioperative Clinical Action Network (PCAN)

WHAT IT IS

A BC surgical network for perioperative teams to collaborate and share solutions

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Opportunities to support provincial surgical priorities, access to innovative ideas to improve surgical services, ability to leverage network data to guide QI opportunities

Enhancing Access Initiative (EAI)

WHAT IT IS

Physician-led innovative approaches to enhance patient access to specialist consult and care

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Support and funding for specialists and family physicians to engage their colleagues and health partners, assess referral needs, and implement strategies to improve patient access to specialist consult and care

Impact

200+ specialists and family physicians have:

reduced multiple referrals for a patient.

improved completeness and appropriateness of referrals and triaging.

strengthened communication, collaboration, and collegiality with other specialists and referring providers.

Specialists Team Care Collaborative (STCC)

WHAT IT IS

A collaborative of 11 specialist-led teams implementing a team care model following the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Breakthrough series framework

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Funding and support to implement a team care model in a specialist-led community clinic

"I have the mental and emotional capacity to work more days with the support I am getting with my allied health professional."

– PEDIATRICIAN

Spreading Quality Improvement (SQI)

WHAT IT IS

Leading the regional spread and scale-up of successful physician-led Quality Improvement projects in British Columbia

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

Funding and support to move a locally-proven QI project to other regions within the province.

"It's really opened my eyes to the whole process of change, and not just change management, but leadership and then quality improvement. It's really snowballed into a lot of other avenues of my own practice."

– ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON