

General Practice Solutions

A Quarterly Newsletter from the GPSC

Health Services Minister Kevin Falcon offers congratulations on 2008/09 GPSC successes

Ministry of Health Services Minister Kevin Falcon congratulated BC's physicians last month for their success in primary health care renewal, remarking on the large scale changes in clinical practice and the province's lead over other Canadian jurisdictions. The Minister's comments followed the tabling of the General Practice Services Committee (GPSC) annual report.

Among many highlights in the report are the following:

- BC patients with diabetes, congestive heart failure (CHF) and hypertension received better care than ever due to an incentive payment for physicians who apply clinical guideline recommendations. Just over \$34 million was allocated for these payments last year.
- More than 108,000 patients with two or more of diabetes, end stage kidney disease, vascular disease and respiratory disease had complex care plans developed and monitored by their GPs, who receive \$315 per patient per year.
- Last year GPSC implemented three prototype Divisions of Family Practice across the province. Divisions unite family physicians in a geographic area so they can work together to improve their own practices as well as coordinate their services with those of health authorities and community organizations.
- Since May 2008, Practice Support Program modules (chronic disease management, patient self-management, advanced access scheduling and group patient visits) have been delivered regionally across the province. More than 1,200 BC GPs with their medical office assistants have participated.

Since the release of the report, GPSC has introduced three new initiatives:

- Mental health module
- Incentive payments for end of life planning and acute care discharge planning
- An incentive payment for care plan development for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder.

For more information, visit www.bcma.org

GPSC update – New COPD incentive bonuses effective September 15, 2009

Effective September 15, 2009, GPs may bill for an annual bonus amount of \$125 for clinical-guidelines-based management of patients with Chronic Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

The COPD CDM incentive (G14053) may be billed anytime after September 21, 2009 with a date of service from September 15, 2009 onward.

Physicians may then also bill for up to four telephone/e-mail follow-up management fees (G14073) for these patients over the following 12 months.

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As of August 26, 2009

Divisions of Family Practice Development List

Division	Health Authority	GPSC Approved For Development Funding	Level
Abbotsford	Fraser	YES (complete and starting annual infrastructure funding)	4
Chilliwack	Fraser	YES	4
White Rock/South Surrey	Fraser	YES (complete and starting annual infrastructure funding)	4
Prince George	Northern	YES (complete and starting annual infrastructure funding)	4
Cowichan Valley	VIHA	YES	4
Oceanside (Parksville/Qualicum)	VIHA	YES	2
South Okanagan (Penticton)	Interior	YES	4
Kamloops	Interior	YES	2
Mission	Fraser	YES	3
North Shore	VCH	YES	3
New Westminster and Area	Fraser		2
Surrey	Fraser		2
Langley	Fraser		1
Maple Ridge	Fraser		1
Fort St John/Hudson Hope	Northern		1
Mount Waddington	VIHA		1
Saanich Peninsula and Sydney	VIHA		1
Victoria West (Sooke)	VIHA		1
Kelowna	Interior		2
Armstrong	Interior		1
Cranbrook	Interior		2
Kootenay Boundary	Interior		1
Vancouver	VCH		3
Powell River	VCH		1

LEGEND

- LEVEL:**
- 1 FPs send expression of interest
 - 2 Completed first meeting between FPs, HA, GPSC
 - 3 Document of Intent (DOI) planning has begun
 - 4 DOI signed



General Practice Solutions is produced by the General Practice Services Committee, a joint committee of the British Columbia Ministry of Health Services and the British Columbia Medical Association.

Formed under the 2004 Agreement between BC's doctors and the provincial government, the GPSC is responsible for developing and implementing strategies that support improvements in primary care.

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PSP Launches Mental Health Module

On September 1 the GPSC Practice Support Program (PSP) launched its mental health module which enables GPs to screen their patients more thoroughly for mental illness and diagnose conditions that were previously more difficult to detect.

Approximately 150 primary care physicians with their Medical Office Assistants piloted the module over the last three months. The final module available to GPs includes: common screening scales, a diagnostic assessment interview tool, a tool for organizing patient issues, a cognitive-behavioural skills program – Bounce Back – consisting of telephone coaching for mood management, and a patient self-management workbook. It is underpinned by the PSP module approach which includes three learning sessions and two action periods.

Family physicians who are interested in taking the mental health module should contact the PSP office in their local health authority.

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Eligible GPs include those with a valid BC MSP practitioner number (registered specialty 00), except those who have billed any specialty consultation fee in the previous 12 months, and:

- whose majority professional activity is in full-service family practice as described in the introduction,
- who have provided the patient the majority of their longitudinal general practice care over the preceding year, and
- have provided the requisite level of guideline-based care.

Visit www.bcma.org/gpsc-gp-services-committee-incentive-update for more information.