

2022/23

The Specialist Services Committee (SSC) is one of four joint collaborative committees that represent a partnership of the Government of BC and Doctors of BC, and includes regular representation from health authorities.

Over the past year, almost 3,000 physicians from across BC accessed Specialist Services Committee (SSC) initiatives and supports to develop their **capacity in leadership** and **quality improvement, engage and collaborate with partners** on patient care and health system challenges and priorities, and to **participate in transforming care delivery**.

IN 2022

27% of physicians engaged with the SSC participated in two or more initiatives.

INITIATIVES & HIGHLIGHTS

Developing Physician Capability

PHYSICIAN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (PQI)

Supports physicians to strengthen their capability in quality improvement (QI) to improve patient care and contribute a QI culture in BC's health care system.

2022/2023 Highlights:

Provincial Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) Alumni Network was established for PQI alumni to connect, share learning, knowledge, and success, as well as identify opportunities to collaborate on improvement activities across all areas of health care.



One-Stop Shop Baby Hippy Clinic

Improves outcomes for infants with developmental dysplasia of the hip and prevents hip surgeries later in life. Read more [here](#).

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

– PQI ALUMNI

413

PQI participants
(223 SPs, 190 FPs)
PQI Levels 1, 2 and/or 3
(FY22/23).

55

physicians who completed PQI Level 3 in 2022/23 reported that their learning action project demonstrated impact on the modified IHI Triple Aim.

182

physicians participated in PQI Level 3 in 2022/23; 595 physicians have participated in PQI Level 3 since the initiative's inception.

SPREADING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (SQI)

SQI fosters collaborative relationships at the provincial, regional/organizational and local levels for spread of physician-led quality improvement work.

2022/2023 Highlights:

SQI was launched, with six health authority PQI/SQI committees involved with selecting and overseeing the spread of 17 successful projects. Knowledge exchange meetings, training sessions, and new resources were provided.

“ The initial project was Facility Engagement, and then we have gone on to have Spread QI funding, which has allowed us to take it further. And of course, I'd like to be able to take it even further. ”

– DR JENNIFER KASK, PREVENTION OF PRETERM BIRTH PATHWAY ISLAND HEALTH

17 projects

A list of all our project to date can be found [here](#).

Left to right: Dr Kirsten Duckitt, Obstetrical Specialist
Dr Jennifer Kask, Family Physician



PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING (PLSP)

Physician Leadership Scholarship Program (PLSP), provides physician access to robust educational support and funding to develop health care leadership and quality improvement skills.

2022/2023 Highlights:

Criteria for PLSP was expanded to include leadership-focused courses and conferences that also address Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as well as Cultural Safety and Humility, and physician well-being.

Watch our [SSC Supporting Leadership Development video](#).

74 physicians

approved to attend the 2022 IHI National Forum, inspiring action in QI

320 physician participants

average annual approved participation in leadership and QI conferences and coaching

76 physician graduates

from UBC Sauder (61 SPs, 15 FPs)

“ I learned how to build teams, create partnerships, and develop a charter and structure. I was also able to think in terms of how to embed this within the health authority leadership and governance. ”

– DR DEVIN HARRIS, EMERGENCY MEDICINE, KELOWNA, BC

Engaging Physicians & Partners

FACILITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE (FEI)

Medical Staff Associations (MSAs)/Physician Societies support physicians working in acute care facilities and programs to strengthen meaningful collaboration with their health authorities in workplace and patient care decisions.

2022/2023 Highlights:

FEI continued to grow, with more shared learning and regional collaboration, and some FEI projects expanding even further through SSC Spread QI.

198

FEI engagement activities
(2023 Site Activity Engagement Tracker projects)

77

MSAs
currently participating in FEI

(Since 2016/17)

11,000+

activities funded

6,000+

physician participants

Promoting Gender Equity in Medicine and Leadership

The Kootenay Lake Hospital (KLH) MSA in Nelson is introducing strategies to shift to a more supportive, equitable environment for women in medicine, that is also more conducive to leadership. The group is also working with neighbouring hospitals to elevate and promote strategies at the regional level.

Read more [here](#) or [link to pdf](#).

COMMUNITY-BASED SPECIALISTS (CBS)

Supports specialists without hospital or health authority privileges and with a community-based practice in three key areas: timely access to patient information, burdens of business operations, and a coordinated voice for community specialists.

2022/2023 Highlights:

Expanded access to SSC, JCC, and Doctors of BC programs and supports, and external tools including 24/7 spoken language interpretation services for CBS physicians and their teams.

“ With the growing population and increase in immigration, one of the main services that I benefit from is interpreters. Spoken Language, interpreting services, is an incredible tool that I use everyday, multiple times a day with my patients. ”

– INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST

AVERAGE USE OF SPOKEN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING SERVICE: 57 hours per month across 19 unique specialties

ACCESS TO UPTO DATE 300+ CBS Specialists (funded by SSC)

ACCESS TO CARE CONNECT 373 CBS Specialists

Transforming Care Delivery

SURGICAL PATIENT OPTIMIZATION COLLABORATIVE (SPOC)

Provides access for specialists to processes and tools to support elective surgical patient pre-habilitation to improve postsurgical outcomes in patients.

2022/2023 Highlights:



Completion of the second SPOC cohort with 14 teams and improvements noted in all areas of the IHI Triple Aim.

14

SPOC teams
spread across all health authorities (2022-23)

“ Honestly, it's been incredibly helpful, and I'm surprised the SPOC is not something that's just part of all recovery. It should be! If we didn't have this program, I honestly don't know where we would have turned. ”

– Patient

1,730

total patients screened by participating facilities

71%

identified as requiring pre-habilitation (1235/1730 patients)

96%

received pre-habilitation prior to their surgeries (1181/1235 patients)

91%

said their surgical experience improved (515/567 patients)

66%

agreed that their health improved (377/568 patients)

SPECIALISTS TEAM CARE COLLABORATIVE

Creates opportunities for specialists to network, collaborate, and innovate across and within specialties, and with other health professionals, to offer high quality and timely specialist care.

2022/2023 Highlights:

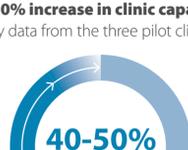
Launch of [Team Care](#) and its first cohort in 2023, with inaugural learning session on Team Function attended by specialists, nurses, allied health professionals, MOAs, office managers, and a midwife.

11

Teams representing 9 specialties

participated in the first cohort

40-50% increase in clinic capacity early data from the three pilot clinics



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

– LEARNING SESSION PARTICIPANT

West Coast Gynecology and Perinatal Care and Full Circle Family Practice – Victoria obstetrician Dr Kim MacDonald is leading the creation of a team-based approach for women's health where patients get faster access to coordinated action, and feel connected to and well-cared for by a team of providers. Read more [here](#).

ENHANCING ACCESS INITIATIVE (EAI)

Supports physicians to engage with colleagues and health partners to assess their referral needs, and implement strategies to improve patient access to specialist consult and care.

2022/2023 highlight:

The third EAI cohort was launched for implementation of a single-entry model.

200+ specialists and family physicians have engaged with colleagues and health partners for Enhanced Access since its inception in 2018

“ I felt in good hands, everyone I dealt with in medical team was kind, understanding, supportive and professional. I found the process since diagnosis was speedy and overall care outstanding. ”

– PATIENT SOUTH ISLAND INTEGRATED BREAST CANCER PROGRAM CENTRALIZED INTAKE INITIATIVE

COVID-19 OPHTHALMOLOGY RAPID ACCESS NETWORK

Expand the COVID-19 Ophthalmology Rapid Access Network (CORAN) to minimize patient contact with the health care system by providing an access point for GPs and optometrists to refer semi-urgent and urgent ophthalmic conditions, to reduce emergency room visits, and the number of encounters the patient has for the same problem.

Reduce patient encounters with the health care system by 30-50%

Since the launch of our program on May, 21, 2022, we have received 358 referral requests to our system. We have been able to match, (342/358) **95.5% of the referred patients with an ophthalmologist** within the lower mainland which reduces the patient having to seek treatment in the ER.



86% of patients indicated they would have had to access the hospital if not able to see a specialist after seeking care with the primary care provider. (Patient feedback survey sent over two month period between Aug-Sept 2022).