



Medical Staff Forum - Reminder

Medical staff are invited to join Dr. Ben Williams, Vice President Medicine, Quality, Research and Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Michelle Weizel, Associate Vice President & Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Medical Staff Forum, 8 October, 7:30-8:30am on MS Teams.

Agenda items will include: Peer Recognition, 2025 Physician Main Agreement (PMA) Implementation, Demedicalizing care at the natural end of life: ACP PowerForm, Public Health Update and dedicated time for questions and answers with leadership. An email invitation with the meeting link was sent on Sept. 9. If you did not receive one, please email

MedStaffCommunications@islandhealth.ca.

To nominate medical staff peers for recognition during the Forum, please send an email to MedStaffCommunications@islandhealth.ca noting: your name, the name of nominee, their title/area of practice and a brief explanation (2-3 sentences) outlining the reason for nomination.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 is a time for us to pause and reflect on the impacts of colonization, to learn about the experiences of Indigenous Peoples in our health-care system, and to actively participate in reconciliation.

“Reconciliation is a journey and September 30 is a day to recommit to walking the path,” says Dr. Graham Blackburn, Executive Medical Director, Cowichan Acute, Community and Redevelopment; Hospitalists/Family Practice MRP and Indigenous Health. “As medical staff, our path to reconciliation is walked with a commitment to providing culturally safe care and

eliminating Indigenous-specific racism at our sites. Through courageous conversations and relationship building we can continue our journey towards reconciliation each and every day.”

To learn more, watch Dr. Blackburn’s “[Reconciliation is a Journey Q’shintul](#)”, his final project for the UBC Sauder Physician Leadership program.

2025 Physician Main Agreement Rate Implementation

The Ministry of Health has finalized the 2025 Physician Main Agreement (PMA) and has begun publishing approved compensation rates. Some physician compensation models are ready for implementation, while others remain pending until further provincial decisions are completed. [Read the full update.](#)

If you are compensated through a **Sessional, After-Hours Premium, New-to-Practice, or Anesthesia Provincial Template arrangement**, implementation of your updated PMA rates began September 2026, with retroactive payments expected to follow in the next month.

If you are compensated through a **Service Contract, Salary Agreement, Hospitalist Provincial Template, or Over-the-Range arrangement**, you will continue to receive payment at 2024/25 rates until final provincial rates are established through the Allocation Committee process, currently expected by March 2027. Any approved increases will be applied retroactively once final rates are released.

Welcome New Medical Leaders

This month, we are thrilled to welcome to their leadership roles:

- **Dr. Erin Carruthers**, Site Chief, Hospitalist/MRP Family Physicians, Cowichan District Hospital
- **Dr. Diana Hammond**, Site Chief, Hospitalist/MRP Family Physicians, Royal Jubilee Hospital
- **Dr. Erika Maher**, Site Chief, Emergency Medicine, Saanich Peninsula Hospital
- **Dr. Kelly Matsuo**, Medical Lead, Imaging Medicine, Central Island
- **Dr. Erin McComb**, Site Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Cowichan District Hospital
- **Dr. Andrea Ratzlaff**, Site Chief, Perinatal Addiction Medicine Consult Service, Victoria General Hospital

- **Dr. Tracey Stephenson**, Chief of Staff, Cowichan District Hospital
 - **Dr. Gaby Yang**, Chair, Medical Education Resource Committee, HAMAC
-

Medical Leader Opportunity

We're actively seeking to fill the role of [Site Chief, Trauma, Nanaimo Regional District Hospital](#). This role functions in a co-leadership partnership, focuses on patient care trends and operational opportunities to inform regional strategic planning, and leads local recruitment. [Explore all Medical Leader postings.](#)

Seeking Central and North Island Committee Members

The Transparency and Communications Steering Committee is seeking new members. The steering committee offers members a chance to participate in helping to shape and change the culture at Island Health. Members co-develop solutions with the health authority to improve culture and embed transparency in all practices. [Full details.](#)

CPSBC Regulation in an Evolving Health Care System Event

A physician-focused event with Dr. Rowe, Registrar and CEO of College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC), will be held on 29 October from 7:30am – 8:30 am.

Dr. Rowe will share updates about the *Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA)* that came into effect April 1, 2026. His session will focus on:

- Changes under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act*
- Regulation of clinical perfusionists, medical laboratory technologists, radiation therapists and respiratory therapists in November 2027

Following the presentation Dr. Rowe will hold a Q & A session with attendees. Email invitations containing the meeting link will be sent to physicians shortly.

Protocol Change: NAC for Acetaminophen Overdose

The BC Drug and Poison Information Centre has updated their protocol for management of acetaminophen overdose with intravenous N-acetylcysteine for adults and pediatrics. The three-bag regimen is being replaced by a simplified one-concentration, two-step protocol. The new protocol addresses safety concerns identified by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices. A full overview of [the new protocol is available online](#) and is **now in effect**.

Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum Sessions

The redesigned Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum (PVPC) consists of two modules, including **required in-person training for medical staff working in high-risk areas**.

Course completion will be tracked, and time will be compensated at sessional rates for those in the high-risk cohort including members of: Emergency Departments/Urgent Care, Mental Health & Substance Use, Psychiatry, Neurology, Long-term Care, and Community Health Services.

[Please register for upcoming in-person sessions being held this fall.](#)

HAMAC Highlights: July 2026 Report

Review the latest [HAMAC meeting minutes](#) from July 9, 2026. (Please note there was no meeting held in August).

In addition to regular business, the Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee discussed:

- Radiology Peer Learning Rounds annual reporting to HAMAC on behalf of the Medical Imaging CARE network, to secure Section 51 protections
 - Strategy and plan to discontinue transcription services at activated sites
 - Review of escalation of concerns related to electronic health record education, documentation, or ordering (CPOE)
 - Proposed name change to Standalone Division of Palliative Care and End of Life to Palliative Care
 - VP of Medicine provided a nursing labour disruption update
-

SportChek VIP Pricing Offer: September 10 to 23

SportChek is extending VIP pricing to medical staff at Island Health, offering discounts on a wide selection of items. In-store purchases only.

This offer is valid from **September 10 to September 23, 2026**. **Medical staff can access their unique barcode by visiting [the Employee Perks Page](#)** (Island Health login required), **or by emailing EPP@islandhealth.ca**.

ICYMI: Dr. Garneau-Begin's Sea Doo Journey

Last month we left some of you on a cliffhanger as we heard from a few folks that they weren't able to access the [full story of Dr. Garneau-Begin's Sea-Doo commute](#). We're sharing the link again for anyone who wasn't able to follow the whole journey.



Medical Staff Communication, Education & Development | Medical and Academic Affairs