

Celebrating Nurse Practitioners

Each year, Nurse Practitioner Week, celebrated the second week of November, provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the important contributions Nurse Practitioners make to patients, families, communities, and the healthcare system.

“Nurse Practitioners are valued members of our healthcare teams across Island Health,” says Dr. Chaundra Willms, Executive Director, Nurse Practitioner Strategy & Practice. “NPs bring advanced clinical expertise, leadership, and a deeply person-centred approach to care. During Nurse Practitioner Week, we celebrate their contributions and thank them for the difference they make every day.”



To all Nurse Practitioners across Island Health: thank you for your leadership, expertise, collaboration and commitment to the patients, families and communities we serve. **Full Story.**

Welcome New Medical Leaders

This month, we're excited to welcome to their leadership roles:

- **Dr. Clark Bartlett**, Division Head, Otolaryngology
- **Dr. Douglas Lamb**, Division Head, Podiatry
- **Dr. Benjamin Martens**, Community Medical Director, Oceanside
- **Dr. Steve Roberts**, Deputy Site Chief, Ophthalmology, Nanaimo Regional General Hospital
- **Dr. Sheila Rodger**, Site Chief, Geriatric Medicine, Royal Jubilee Hospital/Victoria General Hospital
- **Dr. Gaby Yang**, Medical Director, Education, Onboarding & Leadership Development

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Photo ID Renewals

Photo IDs expire every 5 years in accordance with Island Health's Photo ID policy. Your card's expiry date is listed on the front of your photo ID card. If your card is unexpectedly not working:

- Please report your issue to: **SECCON@islandhealth.ca**
- If your photo ID is expired, you will be redirected to Credentialing and Privileging to request a renewal.
- Security officers have keys and are available to assist with access.
- Loaner access cards are available for day use, if required, from the onsite security office. Photo ID will be required to receive access assistance and/or a loaner card.

The SECCON team manages the access card system and processes the requests Credentialing and Privileging submits. SECCON provides support for any status updates for your request. Credentialing and Privileging's visibility of your request ends after it has been submitted. **Full details**.

2026 Annual Rural Physician Confirmation Survey

The 2026 Annual Rural Physician Confirmation Survey is the foundation for all rural incentives, establishing community Rural Retention Program (RRP) scores and individual funding allocations for the year.

Invitations containing personalized survey links were emailed to rural physicians on November 5th.

Why it matters: Completion is mandatory to ensure any rural incentive benefits you may be eligible for continue without interruption.

Missing your survey link? If you reside and practice in a rural RSA community and did not receive your email, please contact **Rural Programs**.

Emergency Department Presentations Following Bat Exposure

The following updates for medical staff from Island Health Medical Health Officers aim to help ensure timely access to rabies post-exposure assessment while supporting appropriate use of Emergency Department resources:

- Patients presenting with a bat bite, scratch, or other wound from direct bat contact should be assessed in the Emergency Department.
- For bat exposures without a known bite, scratch, or wound, Emergency Department assessment is not required solely for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). These patients should be directed to their regional Communicable Disease Hub for assessment and coordination of PEP, if indicated.

Medical Leader Opportunity

This month we're featuring the **Division Head, General Internal Medicine** role. If you're interested in providing speciality specific leadership within your department, this role gives you the opportunity to collaborate with multidisciplinary leaders through the CARE Networks and Specialty Service Areas, to participate in the strategic planning for your department and to advocate for patient-centered care in a collaborative environment. We're actively recruiting for several **Medical Leader roles** – check them out!

Transparency and Communications Steering Committee

Calling all medical staff located in Central or North Island. The Transparency and Communications Steering Committee is seeking members to support their work in collaborating with the health authority to embed transparency in all practices. **Learn more.**



Conducted by Ajtony Csaba, on **Sunday, December 20** at 2:00pm, the **Canadian Doctors Orchestra** will perform its inaugural concert at Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria.

The new, national orchestra, comprised of physicians, residents, medical students, nurses and other healthcare workers from across Canada will bring together 60 of its members to Victoria for the performance. Featured soloists include: violinist Terry Tam, mezzo-soprano Marion Newman and pianist Peter Houghton. Tickets ($40 adult, $20 student) available soon from the UVic Ticket Centre. All proceeds support BC Cancer – Victoria.

HAMAC Highlights: September and October 2026 report

September 2026 - In addition to regular business, the Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee discussed:

- Cowichan District Hospital: General Internal Medicine Update
- Changes to Handling of Returned or Refused Reports in the Electronic Health Record
- Department of Anesthesia, Pain, & Perioperative Medicine Report to HAMAC

Review the **HAMAC meeting minutes from September 10, 2026**. (**note**: you must connect with Citrix, VPN or via an Island Health device on-site to access)

October 2026 - At the Annual Organizational Meeting, the Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee discussed:

- HAMAC Categories of Membership
- HAMAC Revitalization Project – Internal Audit Themes and Preliminary Findings
- HAMAC's Commitment to, and role in, Indigenous Cultural Safety, Humility and Anti-Racism

- Medical Planning and Credentials Subcommittee Annual Report, Refreshed Terms of Reference and Membership
- Medical Education Resource Subcommittee Annual Report, Refreshed Terms of Reference and Membership
- Medical Staff Quality Subcommittee New Terms of Reference and Membership
- Medical Staff Governance Subcommittee New Terms of Reference and Membership
- Medical Leadership Development Activity: Case Studies for Issue Resolution Tool

Review the **HAMAC meeting minutes from October 24, 2026**. (**note**: you must connect with Citrix, VPN or via an Island Health device on-site to access)



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