



Specialist Services Committee

Quality and Innovation Initiatives

March 2012

The Specialist Services Committee (SSC) is supporting specialist physicians to develop and implement 21 projects that will improve the quality and efficiency of specialist services for patients in BC. One-time funding of \$8 million will be used to support these initiatives, which will be implemented by specialists over the next several years.

The overall goals for the funding of specialist physician initiatives are:

- To facilitate innovation and system change initiatives led by specialist physicians that improve the quality of specialist care and access for patients, as well as improve the efficiency of care.
- To ensure that initiatives supported by the SSC are grounded in and guided by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 'Triple-Aim', and employ continuous quality improvement approaches in the delivery of patient care.
- To support collaboration and coordination between specialist physicians, as well as with other physicians, allied health providers and health authority stakeholders in the development and implementation of initiatives.

The specific objectives of the SSC's Quality and Innovation initiative are:

- To provide funding and resources to support and enable specialist physicians to initiate and implement projects that improve specialist services based on evidence and best practices.
- To ensure that projects document and explain, through an evaluation and assessment process, whether initiatives have been able to achieve the intended goals, objectives and outcomes, and be able to identify lessons-learned.
- To learn from the results and experiences of projects led by specialists to determine best practices, approaches and strategies that can be expanded more broadly.
- Have the SSC more involved and engaged with specialist physicians and their practice issues.



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Selection Process

- A two-stage request for proposals process was initiated in 2011/12, and 166 applications were received in Stage 1 worth approximately \$50 million, of which 60 submissions were asked to provide more detailed information in Stage 2.
- A working group of the SSC reviewed and assessed proposals based on their individual merits and how they rated based on SSC's evaluation criteria.
- A total of 21 projects worth approximately \$8 million in one-time funding were given approval in principle by the SSC. A summary list of these projects is provided below.

Evaluation Criteria

The SSC used the following criteria to assess and evaluate the proposals:

- The degree to which the proposal meet the SSC's Guiding Principles and the IHI's Triple Aim.
- The level of impact (number of physician and/or patient population that would be impacted).
- The level of support & endorsement from other specialists/sections, hospital/health authorities, or key stakeholders.
- Whether the proposal promotes collaboration, or crosses multiple disciplines/programs.
- The sustainability of the initiative after the one-time funding is expended.
- The feasibility and likelihood that the proposed initiative will be implemented/ completed.
- The degree to which the proposal was innovative, leveraged existing resources, or expanded on successful innovative pilots/projects.
- The overall merits of the proposal, with clear evidence, analysis and rationale that supports proposed course of action.
- The degree to which the proposal fits within the priorities of the SSC.



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Summary of Initiatives

These initiatives have preliminary SSC approval and the committee is working with the physician-leads on finalizing their work plans for implementation.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE	SPECIALTIES INVOLVED	REGION	PRELIMINARY BUDGET *
Establish multidisciplinary cardio-genetics clinics to provide province-wide referral network and management of patients with inherited arrhythmias.	Medical Genetics & Cardiology	Vancouver Region & Vancouver Island	\$499,241
Initiate a multi-disciplinary Fragile X (most common form of inherited intellectual disability) clinic to better assess and treat patients and family.	Medical Genetics, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Neurology, OB/GYN	Vancouver Island	\$117,000
Establish a comprehensive prostate cancer survivorship program and clinic for patients.	Various medical specialists	Vancouver Region	\$500,000
Support the Victoria-based, integrated, multidisciplinary musculoskeletal clinic to optimize efficiency and effectiveness in musculoskeletal care.	Orthopaedics and other providers	Vancouver Island	\$500,000
Improve coordinated youth to adult transition, for patients with chronic health conditions and disabilities.	Neurology Paediatrics & other specialist physicians	Provincial	\$747,000 (joint proposal)
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Voluntary participation to review data integrity and quality of laboratory results transmitted between BC Biomedical Labs and various physician office EMRs.	Lab Medicine & Various physicians with EMRs	Various	\$185,000
Engage physicians to implement Computerized Order Entry (CPOE) and clinical decision support (CSD) protocols in VIHA's electronic health record.	Various specialties	Vancouver Island	\$499,400
Pilot to develop electronic surgical booking solution for surgeons' offices in Nanaimo and Fraser Region, for potential provincially expansion.	Various surgical specialties	Vancouver Island & Fraser Region	\$850,000 (joint proposal)
Prototype the electronic tracking and reporting of wait times (Wait One) for patients from time of referral to time of surgical consultation, and help identify strategies to reduce wait times.	Various surgical specialties	Provincial	\$296,000
Implementation of an office based EMR for specialists that will be compatible with VIHA EMR system.	Gastroenterologists; multiple specialties	Vancouver Island	\$500,000
Development and implementation of an office based EMR to link to hospital-based subspecialty clinics to enhance care for chronic disease patients.	Cardiology; multiple specialties	Vancouver Region	\$249,500
Telehealth service for MS patients on Vancouver Island.	Multiple specialties	Vancouver Island	\$400,384



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Telehealth service for Mental Health services across Vancouver Island.	Psychiatry	Vancouver Island	\$212,464
Telehealth services for cardiology, plastics and spinal cord services in rural areas in VCH.	Cardiology; plastics	Vancouver Region	\$193,250
SURGICAL Care			
Develop a set of provincial hip fracture performance benchmarks and indicators, and conduct a hip fracture fixation redesign pilot in several health authorities.	Orthopaedics, Anaesthesiology, & other providers	Provincial	\$770,205 (joint proposal)
Work with surgeons and anesthesiologists to identify and implement best practices that will improve operating room/ surgical care efficiency and quality.	Various surgical specialties and Anaesthesiology	Various	\$350,000
Expand Enhanced Recovery After Colorectal Surgery (ERACS) to three additional facilities in the Interior.	Surgical specialties and Anaesthesiology	Interior	\$499,739
TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
Establishment and delivery of a bed-side ultrasound-echocardiogram program.	General Internal Medicine	Various	\$72,405
Funding for physician training in Emergency Department Ultrasound, airway management and procedural sedation, and simulation training for Emergency Medicine.	Emergency Medicine	Provincial	\$498,000
OTHER			
Funding to support General Internal Medicine Specialists to travel to William's Lake to provide a rotating consult service.	General Internal Medicine	Interior Health	\$231,845
Provide Obstructive Sleep Apnea diagnostic equipment to test patients at home for well-defined population groups with high likelihood of OSA.	Respirology/ Sleep Medicine	Vancouver Island	\$50,000
TOTAL			\$8,221,433

* The funding amounts are preliminary figures, subject to finalization after a detailed work plan and budget are approved for each initiative.