

ECBC Physician Reference Group Meeting

January 9, 2024

In attendance:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Todd Ring-ECBC (<i>Co-chair</i>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Aron Zuidhof – IHA (<i>Co-Chair</i>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Korchinski - ECBC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jim Christenson – ECBC | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Craig Murray – FHA | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Eric Grafstein- VCH/PHC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Tony Kwan - IHA | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Monika Wojtera - FHA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ka Wai Cheung - VCH/PHC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jeffrey Beselt – FNHA | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Justin Flynn - NH | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jeff Yoo – VCH/PHC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Gord McInnes – Doc of BC SEM | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Devin Spooner - NH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Corinne Hohl – VCH/PHC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Steven Fedder – Doc of BC SEM | <input type="checkbox"/> Ray Markham – RCCBC | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Christine Hall – VIHA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manpreet Khaira – MoH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jel Coward - RCCBC | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Stefan Da Silva – VIHA |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garth Meckler – BCCH |

Meeting Overview

The fifth meeting of the Emergency Care BC Emergency Physician Reference group occurred on January 9, 2024. Meetings will occur monthly on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 – 8:30 am.

The primary purpose of the Emergency Physician Reference Group is to foster knowledge exchange, collaboration, and networking amongst emergency physicians, MoH and HA emergency medicine leadership.

The EPRG aims to:

- Identify and understand current opportunities and challenges in the provision of emergency services across BC.
- Identify and understand issues core to emergency physician providers including issues pertaining to recruitment, retention, and provider wellbeing.
- Collaboratively identify gaps and prioritize solutions to current challenges in the provision of emergency care, including but not limited to emergency department overcrowding, health human resourcing (HHR), rural ED closure/diversion, and provider wellbeing.
- Identify key issues and priorities for First Nation communities who access emergency departments across BC.
- Identify key issues and priorities for rural and remote populations who access emergency departments across BC.
- Identify key issues and priorities for underserved groups who access emergency departments across BC.

Membership of the ERPG includes:

- ECBC Medical Director (Co-chair)
- ECBC Executive Director

- MoH Executive Director Acute Services
- Health Authority Emergency Medical Directors (Co-Chair)
- Doctors of BC SEM Rep
- RCCBC Rep
- 2 representative Emergency Physicians from each BC Health Authority including one urban and one rural provider
- Ad hoc members (at discretion of CO-Chairs and EPWG)

Items Discussed:

1. **Upcoming PMA Negotiations:** the Doctors of BC and the MOH will be starting contract negotiations for the next physician master agreement (PMA). ECBC is uniquely positioned to support both the Doctors of BC and the MOH to understand priority activities supporting the provision of ED care to all British Columbians seeking Emergency Care. ECBC may consider a position statement to support these contract negotiations with the intention of enhancing Emergency Care for British Columbians.

Discussion:

Gord McInnes and Steve Fedder (SEM) clarified the contract negotiation process from the perspective of the SEM (Docs of BC). Advised that the process involves each section putting forward a limited number of key priorities. These priorities are then grouped together with all other sections onto a single one-page document outlining the key priorities for the Docs of BC. Recommended to keep any priorities broad that can include multiple sections and not focus on specific priorities. Manpreet from the MOH was not present at today's meeting to review MOH process (this would be good to learn).

What role can ECBC play:

1. Collaborate with SEM and DoBC and to also collaborate with MOH to understand priorities of each side
2. Consideration for ECBC to develop a position statement to support negotiations
3. ECBC should identify key individuals to influence around the PMA negotiations on both sides
4. ECBC to keep any recommendations broad
5. Be aware of broader impact of recommendations and unintended consequences (ie. Impact LFP has had on rural ED physician staffing.
6. Leverage the current access challenges with ED closures – fee negotiations should move the needle on supporting stable access to emergency care
7. Leverage the large number of ED docs represented across the province to increase the level of priority of the ask.
8. Collaborate requests with other specialties on initiatives as it will carry more weight

Priorities discussed at EPRG meeting:

1. ED as one of the key front doors to the healthcare system. Need to attract physicians to practice emergency medicine in both rural and urban communities. Highlighting this was fundamental to the success of the Section of FP getting the Longitudinal Family Practice Model in the last PMA. Highlight the level of burnout in Emergency Medicine,

diversion/closure of rural ED's due to staffing as key examples demonstrating need to support Emergency Care providers in the PMA.

2. Compensation model to parallel the LPF model in rural communities to support enhanced compensation for physicians staffing rural ED's. Currently FP's make more money to work in a rural FP office than to staff the rural ED. How can the LFP augmented to support rural ED care?
3. Develop a compensation model to support physician locums for Eds. Collaborate with other groups for similar models to support other areas of need—anesthesia, OB/GYN, pediatrics, etc.
4. Addressing APP contract issues such as the timeliness of negotiations and long standing contractual issues around direct and indirect hours.
5. Rural issues: Disparity across sites, address the impact of Long Fam Practice funding, review retention premiums to further support rural ED providers.
6. Consider ways to iron out internal tensions with between CCFP, CCFP (EM), and FRCP designations

- **Action:**

- **Todd/Aron: Work to develop a position statement from ECBC to support PMA negotiations.**

2. **Form 4/5.** Todd and Aron provided an update around the form 4.1/form 5.1 process. Currently there is a legal challenge to the form 5.1 therefore delaying rollout. Consensus amongst EPWG members that form 5.1 should be filled out by psychiatrist if there is only one Form 5 being completed as psychiatrist have the skills and knowledge to determine a comprehensive treatment plan. If Emergency Physicians are completing the Form 5 then must only encompass ED care and should be an abbreviated or separate form. Consideration for billing code to support completion of form 5.1 (similar to form 4 fee). There was also discussion around supporting increased education and communication around the use of the hospital facilities act for involuntary care of patients (these patients do not fall under the Mental Health Act). Consideration to developing a form to support communication amongst providers when this form is used.

- **Action:**

- **Todd/Aron: connect with Ministry of Mental Health to determine role ECBC can play in facilitating this process including meeting with HA ED leadership teams, Doctors of BC SEM and Ministry of Mental Health/Ministry of Health.**

3. **ECBC Update.** Lori provided an update on the ECBC Strategic Action plan. We are currently working on the plan and now starting to focus on the development of the ECBC Scientific Program within the Strategic Action Plan.

- **Action:**

- **Todd/Lori: will present strategic action plan at upcoming EPRG meeting.**



4. Future meeting topics:

- a. EMR and impact on ED providers
- b. Physician Associates/Physician Assistants
- c. APP contracts
 - i. Redeployment
 - ii. Physician schedules

ACTION LOG:

Action Description	Owner	Due Date	Notes/Comments
Update TOR to include accountability and reporting as discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Terms of Reference: Terms of Reference were again presented to the EPRG and with final input being soughto Todd to circulate final version of TOR for EPWG	Todd Ring	Completed	
ECBC to continue to work on rural locum pool and will report back to EPRG	Todd Ring	Completed	
Continue to fill EPWG membership ensuring diversity of membership	Todd Ring	Completed	
Include feedback when developing ECBC strategic plan	Todd/Lori	Completed	
Share draft strategic action plan with EPWG when complete	Todd/Lori	Ongoing	
Share BC/AB Transport MOU details	Manpreet	Ongoing	