

# ECBC Physician Reference Group Meeting

## April 9, 2024

### In attendance:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ka Wai Cheung - VCH/PHC       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jeffrey Beselt – FNHA         | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Devin Spooner - NH                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Corinne Hohl – VCH/PHC        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Steven Fedder – Doc of BC SEM | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ray Markham – RCCBC                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Drew Digney – VIHA            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garth Meckler – BCCH              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jel Coward – RCCBC                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Stefan Da Silva – VIHA        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manpreet Khaira – MoH                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Steve Zeke – RCCBC                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Aimee Kernick      |

### Meeting Overview

The eighth meeting of the Emergency Care BC Emergency Physician Reference group occurred on April 9, 2024. Meetings will occur monthly on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 – 8:30 am alternating with 12:00 – 1:00 pm.

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 EPRG includes:

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



**EMERGENCY CARE BC**  
Provincial Health Services Authority

- 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. **Review of Action Log:** See below with updates from this meeting.

##### Comments Regarding Form 4/5:

- Gord recommended to collaborate with Ministry of Mental Health and to implement the Healthcare Facilities Act.
- Steve inquired if there is any interest of the MoH to integrate the forms with the various hospital-based EMR's in the province. Needs to be addressed for filling the forms in.

2. **Remuneration during EMR Implementation:**

- Aron shared the summary of recommendations regarding physician remunerations, new PMA negotiations and opportunity to support emergency physicians. EPRG to help support the negotiations and the ongoing needs within emergency care across the province.
- Received feedback from the EPRG.

- **ACTION:**

- **Aron to make revisions based on feedback from EPRG to present to MoH.**

3. **Emergency Local Program:**

- An idea that was brought over to BC from Ontario. A program where physicians can sign up to be part of a program that helps serve communities that have vacant shifts and are in crisis.
- It's not intended to be a general locum program, intended to support communities who are in desperate need, communities needing temporary outside resources.
- How do we support our larger sites and encourage physicians to help support other communities? How to create structure around the program?
- Structure suggestions:
  - Scheduling program that is centralized for all site locations, transparent and easy to follow.
  - Privileging across the province for physicians who are part of the locum program.
  - Should there be a requirement for emergency physicians who are part of this program to have a dedicated FTE at another site, and if so, what FTE? Not the intention to have career locum physicians or to compromise other sites who are trying to secure more full-time regular coverage.

### Comments:

- Gord commented not wanting to pull physicians out from their home sites and leave their home sites short. Many physicians already have a variety of work (Rudy, Heidi, Urgent Care, etc). Would like to prevent from removing physicians out of their local setting.
- Justin commented on already having locums at sites who are winding down to retirement. They didn't want to be committed to a certain site during this phase of their career.
- Zeke commented within the family medicine GP locum program, most of the physicians doing the work are either newly graduated or transitioning towards retirement. Giving opportunity for physicians to try out different sites. Works out as an opportunity for physicians to try out different sites and see if there is potential/interest to live in that community.
- Jim commented on the importance to be clear on what we are trying to achieve. Is it related to the quality of the care that the physician delivers based on experience or is it related to protecting existing groups from siphoning off their members to work in smaller communities. How to define members within the multiple groups.
- Jel commented letting groups decide. Diverse groups that don't want an FTE somewhere, not to exclude certain groups.
- Steve mentioned the nursing crisis and staffing emergency departments. Nurses are being siphoned off to work in urgent care clinics and to work as agency nurses. Solve the problem with pay rate, physicians providing the regular care who live in the smaller community are paid at the same rate as the locum, raise the regular pay rate.
- Craig commented on a group's potential loss of physicians on locum work and FH ED Staffing coverage
- Jeff commented the importance to have consideration that physicians have demonstrated or have taken San'yas Anti-racism Indigenous Cultural Safety Training.
- **ACTION:**
  - **Aron and Lori to connect with Craig on the impact of ED docs covering inpatients in FHA on ED staffing.**
  - **Aron and Lori to continue to build out the emergency locum pool program and potentially start a working group. Will extend the invite to the EPRG group if there is interest.**

#### 4. Quality Improvement Poster Update

- Aron reiterated the intention with this group was to create a space for emergency physicians to have their voice heard and be able to have connection with the Ministry of Health.
- Aron shared the survey results through a poster around the EPRG, to share their experiences and to look for opportunities for change.
  - Our goal was to evaluate with this from the survey that was sent out. Analyze the responses, how is the group to date, are we heading in the right direction. Opportunity to continue to build out the voice with the MoH.
- Opportunity to have more representatives from other groups.

### Comments:

- Agenda items have been brought from past discussions.
- Believe there is a great representation so far.
- When there is a success, to be widely communicated within the Health Authorities
- How physicians who work on the front-line can communicate to the EPRG members

### 5. Next Meeting

- **May 14, 2024**, from 12pm to 1pm for those who are unable to make the morning time.
- The next 4 months will alternate meeting times between 7:30am and 12pm.

### 6. 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
Share/present draft strategic action plan with EPWG when complete.	Todd/Lori	Ongoing	
Share BC/AB Transport MOU details	Manpreet	Ongoing	
Work to develop a position statement from ECBC to support PMA negotiations.	Todd/Aron	Ongoing	Discussed during the meeting, received feedback. Will be circulated for final review.
Connect with Ministry of Mental Health to determine role ECBC can play in facilitating <b>Form 4/5</b> process including meeting with HA ED leadership teams, Doctors of BC SEM and Ministry of Mental Health/Ministry of Health.	Todd/Aron	Ongoing	Aron met with Karen recently. Next Steps: Continue to work with MoH and MoMH to map out a broader implementation for involuntary admissions including the Healthcare consent and facilities act, Form 4.1 and Form 5. A review has been requested by Section of Emergency Medicine.
Ensure ECBC is a key partner on Associate Physicians (Physician Assistants) in the ED	Todd/Lori	Ongoing	Aron and Lori continue to work along side the Physician Assistant Reference Group.
Partner in provincial conversations around ED physician remuneration and support during EMR roll outs or major updates	Todd/Lori	Ongoing	Seeking conversation with Digital/Informatics leadership in HA.

Revisions to the Emergency Physician Remuneration Document bas on feedback from the meeting	Aron		
Connect with Craig on the impact of ED docs covering inpatients in FHA on ED staffing.	Aron/Lori		
Continue to build out the emergency locum pool program and potentially start a working group. Will extend the invite to the EPRG group if there is interest.	Aron/Lori		