

ECBC Physician Reference Group Meeting

May 14, 2024

In attendance:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Todd Ring-ECBC (<i>Co-chair</i>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Aron Zuidhof – IHA (<i>Co-Chair</i>) | <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Justin Flynn - NH | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Dr. Steven Fedder – Doc of BC SEM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ray Markham – RCCBC | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Drew Digney – VIHA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garth Meckler – BCCH | <input 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. Zeke Steve – RCCBC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Aimee Kernick |

Guests: Matt Erickson MoH, Nial Helgason, MoH

Meeting Overview

The ninth meeting of the Emergency Care BC Emergency Physician Reference group occurred on May 14, 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)



EMERGENCY CARE BC
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- 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. **Review of Action Log:** See below with updates from this meeting.
 - **ACTION:**
 - If EPRG has a topic/idea to bring forward to the ED Stabilization Committee, please email Lori/Aron.
 - Lori and Aron to keep EPRG updated on the ED Stabilization committee.
2. **Access & Flow Presentation:**
 - Matt and Nial presented regarding congestion and access block and the current state of EDs.

Comments:

- Ray suggested to de-aggregate the data to see the impact at regional and rural sites, help to see what's working and pulling out some of the smaller sites.
- Zeke asked if looking at sites specifically that have unattached inpatient problems. Pull out data from sites that are dealing with reduced access to primary care.
- Corinne asked if the data is capturing the complexity measures of the patients. Referenced a recent article on JAMA. This paper is focused on inpatients – but the data in emergency departments is not readily available but would also be a likely factor. There would be a research opportunity. Possible to reflect in the metrics?
- Jim asked how the fluctuation of bed utilization impacts the ED. Have a marker measurement of ED overcrowding.
- Gord commented on stretcher hours vs. bed utilization. How does that impact occupancy for a better term in the emergency department as?
- Ka Wai commented on being busier in the ED. Is the length of stay increase due to increased complexity of patients?
- Corinne suggested on identifying the time of day/day of the week. Time arrival in ED has an influence on subsequent trajectory of care due to availability of services. Does the data support services running 24/7 to help improve access and flow.
- Jim commented on the accountability framework. Change in the approach from various services, being accountable for waiting rooms. Cultural change on responsibility. Idea of a waiting room in other places of the hospital. Inpatient and long-term care also has a waiting room.



- Gord discussed the opportunity to further support family members in supporting patients at home, perhaps virtually or in person in some of the smaller rural/remote areas.
- Zeke commented on the discussion around the cultural piece. A lot of responsibility falls on ED. Rural communities struggle to stay open. Supporting physicians through RTVS for diversions from ED.
 - Any suggestions/questions for the presentation to please email Aron to forward to Matt and Nial.
- **ACTION:**
 - **Aron to follow up with Matt and Nial to bring back discussion around research/data.**

3. Next Meeting

- **June 11, 2024**, from 7:30am to 8:30am for those who are unable to make the afternoon time.
- The next 3 months will alternate meeting times between 7:30am and 12pm.

4. Future meeting topics:

- EMR and impact on ED providers
- Associate Physician/Physician Assistants
- APP contracts
 - Redeployment
 - 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	Completed the letter, Aron sent it off to Doctors at BC for feedback. Aron to follow up once feedback has been received.
Connect with Ministry of Mental Health to determine role ECBC can play in facilitating Form 4/5 process including meeting with HA ED leadership teams, Doctors of BC SEM and Ministry of Mental Health/Ministry of Health.	Todd/Aron	Ongoing	
Ensure ECBC is a key partner on Associate Physicians (Physician Assistants) in the ED	Todd/Lori	Ongoing	Aron and Lori continue to work alongside the Physician Assistant Reference Group.
Feedback of the two questions will support a Quality Improvement process that will be presented at the quality Forum in April.	Aron/Lori	Completed	Poster was presented at Quality Forum and well received.

Partner in provincial conversations around ED physician remuneration and support during EMR roll outs or major updates	Todd/Lori	Ongoing	Challenge around the remuneration and standardizing due to using different entities and in terms of Cerner and Meditech, difficult to try and bring standardization. Although, messaging was received for the importance of remuneration.
Connect with Craig on the impact of ED docs covering inpatients in FHA on ED staffing.	Aron/Lori	Completed	ED Stabilization committee will begin with MoH and HA senior leadership in order to support stabilization, for both physicians and nursing.
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	Ongoing	Managing some barriers around the work Considered for one strategy to support ED stabilization

