

## New GPSC Meeting Summary Format

A new format for the GPSC meeting summaries has been implemented to help readers find information important to them quickly and efficiently.

This summary contains items from the GPSC meetings from March to May 2020.

## Welcome to Dr Anthon Meyer

Dr Anthon Meyer has been appointed as the new GPSC Co-Chair by the Doctors of BC Board of Directors. Committee members welcomed Dr Meyer to his new role, and extended a big thank you to Dr Shelley Ross for her contributions in her seven years as the physician co-chair.

## GPSC Workshop: BC Primary Care Response to COVID-19

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, GPSC members and partners participated in a workshop to discuss the strategies and status of work underway to enable a primary care response to COVID-19 in BC. Objectives of the workshop included: identifying opportunities for shared learning from strategies implemented across the province, discussing considerations of the future of primary care delivery, and determining options for collaboration with other JCCs and other strategic partners to improve care across the system.

Four key strategic areas of discussion emerged:

- Virtual care
- Physician compensation and funding
- Support for vulnerable populations
- Support for and further development of organizational structures

The discussions from the workshop will be used to inform GPSC's work and initiatives aimed at supporting family doctors to increase capacity and provide access to high quality care to their patients.

## GPSC CORE: Key Items and Decisions

### 2020 CLFP payment

The 2020 Community Longitudinal Family Physician payment will continue on the 2019 payments' success by providing a median payment of \$6,000 to eligible physicians. This year's payment will be paid in two installments. The first payment installment of \$3000 will be made this summer and the second payment, a variable amount based on the number and complexity of a physician's MSOC patients, will be made in the fall. The 2020 CLFP Payment will be paid to the payee number where the physician provided the majority of FP services in 2020.

### Chronic Disease Management and Prevention fees expand to include Telehealth

The GPSC approved temporary changes to the Chronic Disease Management fees (14050-53, 14250-53) to allow the minimum two visits to be delivered via telehealth, with the agreement to revisit the change in December 2020. Changes to 14066 have also been approved, and 14066 can now be billed when the visit is provided via telehealth. These changes will reduce the need for patients to attend physician offices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Physician Compensation for COVID response

Several divisions have expressed their concerns over the uncertainty of funding for COVID-19 responses. GPSC acknowledges that this is a high priority area of work and is addressing the

issue of division reimbursement with its partners.

### Ministry of Health PCN Update

GPSC Co-Chair Ted Patterson shared an update on PCN (Primary Care Network) implementation across the province. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting each community differently and some communities are prepared to continue with PCN work while others are not yet ready. The Ministry has provided direction to PCN communities to continue the work where possible pending future clarification on targets and expectations. Recognizing that most communities are focused on COVID-19 response efforts, the Ministry will be relaxing PCN targets and reassessing the situation as it evolves.

PCN funding packages have been distributed to the following eleven PCN communities: Central Interior Rural, Central Island (Oceanside), Central Okanagan, Chilliwack, Cowichan Valley, East Kootenay, Mission, North Shore, South Island, White Rock South Surrey and Vancouver (part 2).

### Obstetrical delivery fee lift now retroactive to January 1, 2019

In 2019, GPSC made the decision to increase obstetrical delivery fees (14004, 14005, 14008, 14009) by 30%, effective April 1, 2019. GPSC has now retroactively applied the increase to January 1, 2019, so that all physicians can benefit from fee increases for their first 25 deliveries of 2019. Physicians do not need to act, this lift will be done automatically.

The obstetrical delivery fees are intended to compensate family physicians who provide low-volume deliveries, often in rural areas. This payment helps to keep their practices viable, meaning that patients can continue receiving maternity services close to home. The

obstetrical delivery fees are volume-based fees, billable up to a maximum of 25 incentives in any combination per calendar year (i.e. January 1-December 31). When submitting the 14004/05/08/09 fees, physicians must jointly bill MSP fees (14104, 14105, 14108, 14109). Physicians may only claim 25 GPSC “bonus” obstetrical delivery incentives per calendar year.

### Maternity Care Initiative for Vulnerable Communities

GPSC has announced funding for maternity care in vulnerable communities across BC, strengthening the commitment to family doctors who deliver and care for newborns. Providing sustainable local care can be a challenge in small and remote communities where resources are limited. This new funding will complement existing maternity initiatives around the province and ensure that patients can continue to receive maternity care close to home.

### Virtual Care Update

Canada Health Infoway has provided \$4M in funding to the province of BC which will be used to fund several projects including: Virtual Care Platforms, Home Health Monitoring, and Virtual tools for mental health and substance abuse. Projects funded through this initiative will be reimbursed by Canada Health Infoway for 75%, and the remainder by the province.

The Doctors Technology Office is working with the Ministry to help in establishing virtual provider networks to support unattached patients that need access to care. GPSC is aiming to make this sustainable into the future and not just to address the immediate needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.