

**Program Information Package:
Program Eligibility, Policies & Guidelines**

Maternity Care for BC (MC4BC)

Revised November 2020



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Welcome to the Maternity Care for BC Program Information Package!

This package contains detailed information about the General Practice Services Committee (GPSC) Maternity Care for BC (MC4BC) program. The package covers the purpose of the program; eligibility information; funding; how to apply; a typical participants' program journey; and contact information.

1.0 Background and Purpose

Recent trends in British Columbia (BC) indicate that many general practitioners (GPs) are dropping their in-hospital obstetrical privileges or are choosing not to incorporate obstetrics into their practices, which is contributing to the province's growing need for primary maternity care providers. The GPSC is working to modify this trend with programs and incentives for GPs to include obstetrical services in their practices.

The purpose of MC4BC is to support GPs to enhance their obstetrical skills and experience in order to begin, maintain, or reintroduce obstetrical care in their practice. The program is designed for GPs who:

- are not currently providing obstetrical care but who want to include obstetrical care in their practice; or
- want additional experience or training to continue to provide obstetrical care; or
- are new to practice and wish to augment their obstetrical skills and experience.

Participants' learning experiences are supported by Preceptors and/or Mentors. Details regarding the respective roles and responsibilities of program Participants, Preceptors and Mentors have been outlined in Section 3.0 of this document.

2.0 Program Eligibility

This program is for GPs who:

- i. plan to incorporate obstetrics into their practice; and
- ii. want to enhance their obstetrical skills and experience including labour and delivery, antepartum, postpartum, or breastfeeding care at any stage of their career.

GPs are eligible for consideration to participate in the program if they meet **all** of the following criteria:

- i. completes all required application documentation;
- ii. has obtained full registration and licensure from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia to practice family medicine in BC¹;
- iii. meets Health Authority privilege requirement(s) to provide obstetrical care in a hospital while participating in the MC4BC Program; and
- iv. intends to practice GP-obstetrics in BC for a minimum of two years after completion of MC4BC.

3.0 Roles & Responsibilities

¹ Applicants for MC4BC must meet Health Authority requirements for obstetrical privileges. If the Applicant has been absent from general practice for 3 or more years, s/he must advise the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC and must meet their Return to Practice requirements before applying to the MC4BC program.

i. MC₄BC Participants

A GP Participant of the MC₄BC Program aims to increase his/her knowledge and experience in family medicine-obstetrical care. S/he has the following responsibilities:

- to create a self-directed learning experience, making revisions as needed
- to complete and submit all program forms, including the MC₄BC: Application Package, Return of Service Agreement, Participant Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package, and Program Completion Package
- to complete all requirements outlined in the Return of Service Agreement
- to complete all requirements necessary for obtaining hospital privileges to provide obstetrical care in the facility
- to be available to care for patients in various settings according to one's learning needs and the patients' care requirements
- to assume graduated levels of responsibility with the aim of assuming full care of patients under supervision
- to take an active role in his/her learning
- to initiate and/or participate in quality improvement activities with the care team and with their Preceptor such as: case debriefing, chart review, or audits; and
- to provide care aligned with the principles of family medicine: longitudinal comprehensive care with continuity over the maternity care period: pregnancy, labour, birth, and postpartum care up to 6 weeks, to the best of his/her ability given the constraints of the period of time of the Program and the specific learning objectives

ii. MC₄BC Preceptors

An MC₄BC Preceptor is someone who makes him/herself available to supervise Participants (directly and indirectly) while they provide care to his/her patients' care for the duration of the program (individualized ~ up to 1 year). The MC₄BC Preceptor has the following responsibilities:

- to review and respond to the Participant's Learning Plan
- to assist the Participant in achieving his/her learning objectives by offering or recommending clinical practice learning opportunities in various settings
- to provide supervision to a Participant while they provide care to a patient of the Preceptor or his/her team in any of the following situations: antepartum care, in-hospital delivery, postpartum, breast-feeding, and/or newborn care
- to supervise care activities that might include: direct patient care, telephone calls with patients, ordering investigations, reviewing lab and imaging results, making referrals, charting in health records, giving handover reports, performing procedures, managing labour, and performing a delivery
- to assist the Participant in developing the full scope of skills and experience necessary to practice FP-obstetrical care according to their learning needs.
- to foster a safe learning culture
- to support the Participant to gradually increase the level of responsibility of care to being fully responsible
- to participate in quality improvement activities such as: case debriefing, chart review, or audits when appropriate with the Participant
- to be available to the Participant for discussions to enhance their learning

- to submit the Preceptor/Mentor Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package in order to receive compensation.

iii. MC4BC Mentors

The mentorship aspect of the MC4BC program will foster continued learning and provide ongoing support for Participants and graduates of the program for up to one year following program completion. As family physicians provide maternity care in their practice or as a locum, there may be a need for guidance on professional and personal issues (e.g. patient care advice and work-life balance). Mentoring activities could include: debriefing a case, chart review, direct patient care advice, and support for a participant's quality improvement initiative in their own practice.

A Mentor is ideally a family doctor who is experienced in maternity care and is currently providing full obstetrical care to his/her patients. The Mentor may share these duties on occasion with their on-call team for urgent requests from a Participant. If the mentor is not a family physician, the Participant should write to the MC4BC Administrator explaining the situation and why an alternative health care practitioner is requested to fill this role. The GPSC MC4BC Subcommittee will decide if the request is approved. The Mentor may receive a stipend but there is no payment allotted to the mentee. The responsibilities of the Mentor are:

- to be available for communicating with the graduate (Participant) for up to one-year;
- to provide support and encouragement for the integration of maternity care into a family medicine practice;
- to provide an alternative contact person for urgent requests from the participant should the mentor be unavailable;
- to foster a safe learning culture; and
- to submit the [Preceptor/Mentor Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package](#) in order to receive compensation.

4.0 Program Funding

i. Participant Training Stipend - up to \$33,383.70 per Participant

Labour and Delivery in hospital (up to \$22,255.80): Participants are eligible to receive \$158.97/hr (the current hourly sessional rate), up to 7 hours per birth for the management of labour, delivery, and in-hospital postpartum care for a maximum of 20 births. This stipend is in lieu of income loss. Participants may not receive any fee-for-service activities associated with attending a birth as part of this Program.

Antepartum and Post-Discharge Postpartum Care (up to \$11,127.90): Participants are eligible to receive \$158.97/hr (the current hourly sessional rate) for supervised antepartum and post-discharge postpartum care including breastfeeding support, for up to 70 hours. The care may take place in the hospital, office/clinic, or patients' homes.

Participants are required to document and claim their approved supervised activities by submitting the MC4BC Participant Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package.

ii. Participant Travel Allowance – up to \$9,500

A maximum of \$9,500 is allocated for travel and accommodation during the program per participant. These funds must be exclusively used for the travel to/from the obstetrical training site. Doctors of BC rates and approved expenses apply for all expenses. Reimbursement will be provided upon submission of receipts and a completed Participant Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package.

iii. Participant CMPA Obstetrical Insurance cost differential – up to \$100

A maximum of \$100 will be reimbursed to the participant for the difference in the upgrade² to CMPA obstetrical category professional liability insurance after application of the Doctors of BC CMPA Rebate for the duration of the Program. GPs are responsible for the cost of obstetrical category insurance after completion of the program. Reimbursement will be provided upon submission of receipts and a completed Participant Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package.

iv. Additional Education Requirements for Participants – up to \$1,000

Up to \$1,000 in funding will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts for educational program tuition costs required by the Health Authority approved physician leader in order to obtain or maintain hospital privileges during the program (e.g. NRP, Fetal Health Surveillance, ALARM, ALSO). GPs will be responsible for any additional educational costs that are needed for the maintenance of obstetrical privileges after completion of the Program. Reimbursement will be provided upon submission of receipts and a completed Participant Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package.

v. Preceptor Stipend

Up to a total of \$2,000 for supervision of in-hospital labour/delivery/postpartum care and up to \$2,000 for supervision of antepartum and post-discharge postpartum community care, including breastfeeding care per participant. Salaried providers are not entitled to charge sessional fees.

Preceptors can be GPs, specialist physicians, or non-physicians (e.g. Registered Midwives, Lactation Consultants, Nurse Practitioners, etc.).

GP and specialist physician Preceptors are eligible to receive \$100 per in-hospital birth supervised, up to a maximum of 20 births, in addition to their fee-for-service payments.

According to GPSC policies, non-physician Preceptors are eligible to receive \$65 per in-hospital birth supervised, up to a maximum of 20 births, in addition to their typical birth payments.

GP and specialist physician Preceptors are eligible to receive \$100 for each half-day (3.5 hours) for supervision of antepartum and postpartum community care for up to a maximum of 70 hours per participant in addition to their regular fee-for-service billings associated with this care.

According to GPSC policies, non-physician Preceptors are eligible to receive \$65 for each half-day (3.5 hours) for supervision of antepartum or postpartum community care for up to a maximum of 70 hours per participant, in addition to fees received from other sources for patient care.

² Cost of insurance with Family Medicine with obstetrics after CMPA rebate is \$1200 per year. Cost of insurance without obstetrics after CMPA rebate is \$550 per year. The difference is \$650 per year or \$12.50 per week. This Program will pay the additional insurance for 8 weeks. \$12.50 X 8 weeks = \$100.

Preceptors must submit relevant forms within the Preceptor/Mentor Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package in order to receive compensation.

vi. **Mentor Stipend – up to \$7630.56**

A GP or specialist physician Preceptor registered with the MC4BC program may provide mentorship to a Participant for up to 12 months. Sessional payment for the mentor is limited at one session per month for twelve months. Salaried physicians are not entitled to charge sessional fees.

Participants undertaking the mentorship are not required to have undertaken the training/supervision component of MC4BC. If the MC4BC training program has been utilized, the 12-month mentorship may be started after the completion of this training/supervision (i.e. GPs who are new to obstetrics in their practice may access the mentorship without first having to undertake the training/supervision program).

Communication may occur in-person, by telephone or video chat. Mentoring activities include: debriefing a case, chart review, direct patient care advice, and support for a participant's quality improvement initiative in their own practice. Mentors must submit relevant forms within the Preceptor/Mentor Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package in order to receive compensation.

If a graduate participant solicits a Mentor who is not their GP or specialist physician Preceptor, they must send an email to the MC4BC Administrator seeking approval and explain the rationale. For Participants who only wish to access mentorship, the Participant must send an email to the MC4BC Administrator seeking approval and ask the proposed Mentor to register with the program as a Preceptor.

vii. **Ineligible Use of Funds**

Funding under the MC4BC Program is NOT available for:

- Preparation or study time
- Upgrading of surgical skills (see Rural Coordination Centre R3 Enhanced Skills program: www.rccbc.ca/rural-physicians/rural-programs#C)
- Educational needs for the practice of obstetrics on an ongoing basis
- Ongoing costs of providing obstetrical care (CMPA, hospital privileges requirements) outside of the time of enrollment in this Program

viii. **Payment & Expense Claims**

MC4BC Participants are responsible for submitting payment and expense claims for themselves using the Participant Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package. While Preceptors/Mentors are also responsible for submitting their own payment claims, Participants have been encouraged to fill out the Preceptor/Mentor Sessional Payment & Expense Form Package as much as possible on their behalf. All claims must be submitted ONCE A MONTH from the date(s) of service. Salaried providers are not entitled to charge sessional fees.

5.0 Application Process

i. **Complete and Submit the MC4BC Application Forms Package**

If you meet the eligibility requirements (see Section 2.0), complete and sign ALL forms included in the MC4BC Application Package. The Application Package contains a series of forms that will inform your learning experience, as follows.

- **Form 1: Applicant Contact and Background Information**
The purpose of this form is to provide MC4BC with contact and background information about the program applicant.
- **Form 2: Applicant Learning Needs Assessment**
This purpose of this form is to help participants assess their learning needs related to the provision of maternity care.
- **Form 3: MC4BC Learning Objectives Worksheet**
Building upon learning needs identified in Form 2, the purpose of this form is to help participants develop their MC4BC learning objectives and brainstorm training activities that will help them achieve those learning objectives.
- **Form 4: MC4BC Learning Plan**
This form requires participants to outline their detailed learning plans, including the Preceptor(s) or Mentor(s) they plan to work with, learning activities and learning objectives. It is recommended that participants work with their preceptors when developing their learning plans. If participants require support in identifying a Preceptor or Mentor, they are encouraged to contact their local Division of Family Practice or MC4BC Program Administrator for support. MC4BC maintains a roster of providers willing to take on program participants in different communities (contact the MC4BC Administrator for further information - gpsc.mc4bc@doctorsofbc.ca).
- **Form 5: Facility Letter of Support for MC4BC Participation**
This form ensures the participant has received approval to work at the specified facility for the purposes of MC4BC training. This form must be signed by the Health Authority approved physician leader who is responsible for recommending/confirming hospital obstetrical privileges (e.g. Chief of Medical Staff, Department Head, Division Head, etc.). Note that the Facility Letter for Support is not required for those applying to receive mentorship support only.

Applications may be submitted until available funding within the fiscal year has been allocated, or until the current fiscal year is three months from ending, whichever comes first. Applications should be submitted to the MC4BC Program Administrator and will be reviewed by the MC4BC Subcommittee on a monthly basis in order of receipt.

MC4BC Administrator
Doctors of BC
115 - 1665 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5A4
E: gpsc.mc4bc@doctorsofbc.ca W: www.gpscbc.ca

GPSC has the ultimate discretion and authority to review all decisions and to make exceptions to decisions coming from the MC4BC Subcommittee.

ii. Notification Process and Requirement to Sign the Return of Service Agreement

Following application review, each applicant will receive a letter of acceptance or denial. Upon the direction of the GPSC, the MC4BC Administrator will distribute a copy of the [Return of Service Agreement](#) (the "Agreement") to each successful applicant.

Overview of the Return of Service Commitment

After completion of the Program, the Agreement requires each Participant to:

- attend, as a primary provider, a minimum of 12 births over 24 months following completion of the MC4BC Program;
- practice obstetrics in BC;
- complete other activities as required to maintain hospital privileges for the purpose of practicing obstetrics; and
- give permission to have GPSC confirm through MSP, the number of births attended after the completion of the Program for 24 months.

The applicant must sign and return the Agreement to the MC4BC Administrator before any funding is administered. A signed copy of the Agreement will be returned to the participant for his or her records. If the applicant fails to sign the Agreement, he or she will not be eligible to receive any program funding.

The successful applicant must commence the program within 6-months from the date of the Program Administrator's approval letter. Once documented acceptance into the program has been received, the successful applicant is required to complete training within 12-months from program acceptance.

6.0 Program Completion

When the Participant feels satisfied that they have completed their learning objectives, they must complete and submit the MC4BC Program Completion Package to the Program Administrator.

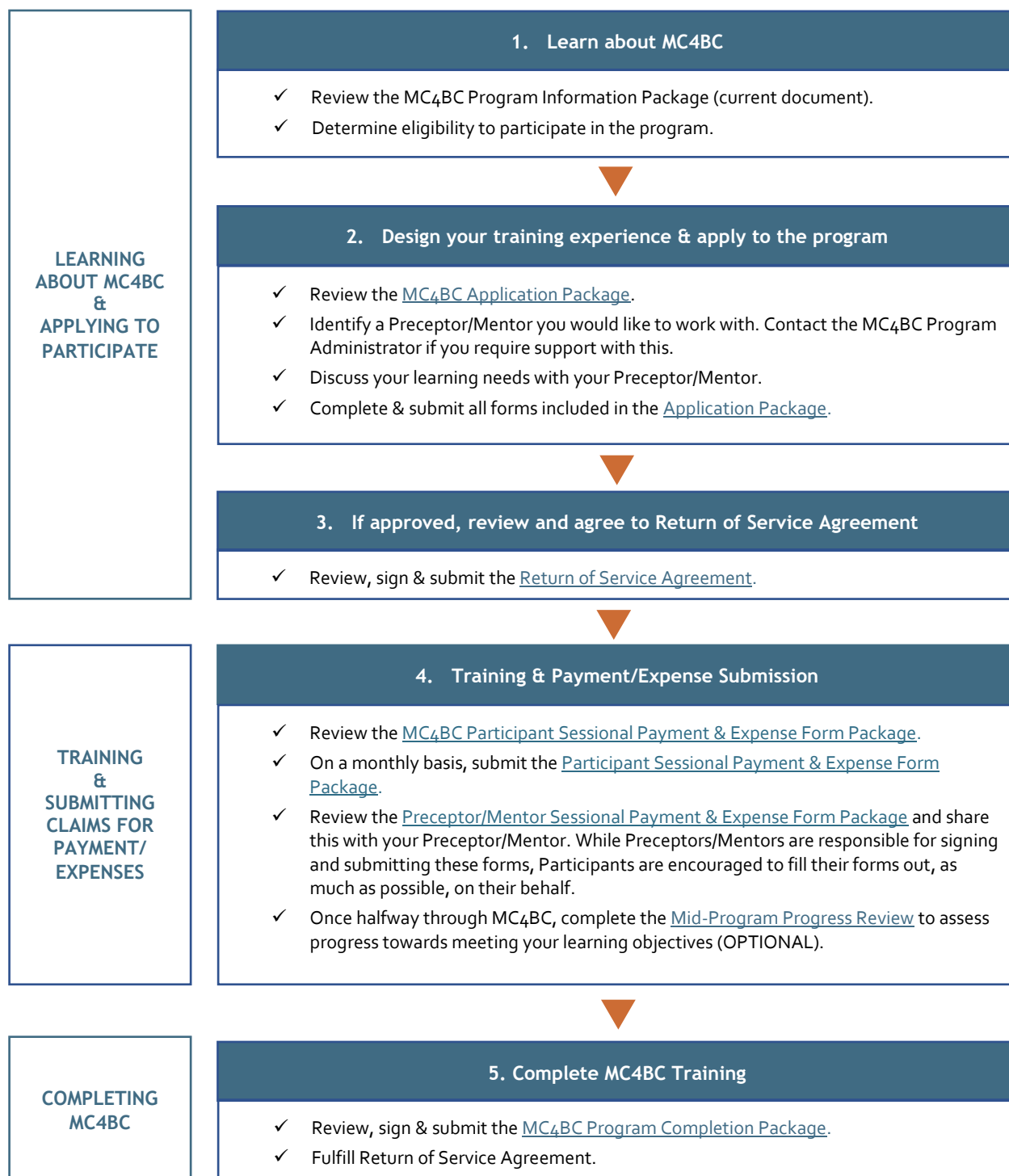
Please send completed MC4BC Program Completion Packages by email to:

MC4BC Administrator
Doctors of BC
115 - 1665 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5A4
E: gpsc.mc4bc@doctorsofbc.ca W: www.gpsc.bc.ca

Upon receipt of the MC4BC Program Completion Package, the Administrator will then release participants' first delivery sessional fee to mark the completion of the program.

7.0 Participant Program Journey Map

The following map has been designed to help MC4BC Participants navigate through the program and the forms that must be submitted along the way. For your convenience, all program forms have been hyperlinked in the map below and have been associated with key program milestones.



8.0 Frequently Asked Questions

Please click [here](#) to review answers to a series of [frequently asked questions](#) about MC4BC.

9.0 Program Evaluation

The GPSC evaluates all of its programs and initiatives from time to time. In the future, Participants may be asked to participate in an evaluation process related to MC4BC. All information collected as part of an evaluation of the MC4BC Program will be anonymous. No specific individuals will be identified and all results will be presented in an aggregate manner in a report to the GPSC. Participation in an evaluation process is entirely voluntary. However, continuing MC4BC in the future relies upon meaningful program evaluation. All individuals will be asked for their informed consent prior to participating in future evaluation activities.

10.0 Exceptions to Policy

The GPSC has the discretion and authority to review all requests made in writing and to make exceptions to this policy. The GPSC has the discretion and authority to make changes to the Program and any policy without prior notice.

11.0 Program Contact Information

For further information on any part of the program, please contact:

MC4BC Administrator
Doctors of BC
Ste 115 - 1665 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5A4
E: gpsc.mc4bc@doctorsofbc.ca W: www.gpsc.bc.ca