

PCN Information – Allied Overhead and Memoranda of Understanding

There have been questions concerning the allocation of overhead for nursing and allied staff deployed within a Primary Care Network (PCN), and how that funding is distributed. Currently, nursing and allied staff receive 15% of their salaries towards overhead, to contribute to the cost of deploying these team members within networks (to cover costs such as physical space and equipment).

The Ministry is currently working with Doctors of BC and some wave one communities to better understand the realities and requirements of overhead cost for team members within PCNs. While that work is underway, the direction from the Ministry is that – assuming team members are working within private clinic offices – the overhead allocation is to go to the clinics to support the costs associated with supporting those professionals.

This may mean, in the interim, as part of the cost of hiring and deploying nursing and allied providers, health authorities incur additional costs. We are asking that health authorities track those costs and report them to the Ministry. This will help us better understand the realities on the ground.

We have also had questions about what the Ministry's position is on communities developing local agreements. As local CSCs work together to implement Primary Care Networks, they may identify a desire to craft local agreements outlining specific processes or activities between the partners.

The Ministry has provided general guidance for deployment of health professionals in the PCN and all partners are required to ensure they follow the terms of collective agreements (see the PCN Toolkit here). However, should PCNs want to create their own agreements or memorandums of understanding to help guide activities at the operational level, they are free to do so without Ministry and/or GPSC approval. That said, PCNs should provide copies of these agreements to their PCN liaisons for review to ensure that they are in alignment with guidelines.

In addition, the GPSC Information Sharing Task Group is currently working on developing a template for care team agreements as well as an information sharing agreement, which will be available for use by PCNs.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any additional follow up questions, please connect with your community liaison.