

We are growing your care team

How we share your information

The BC Ministry of Health, Doctors of BC, the College of Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC and others are working together to improve the care you receive in your community. As part of these efforts, we are adding more staff to our team. You may be seen by a nurse, social worker, pharmacist, or other team member employed by a health authority. To care for you, they will access your chart, just like other team members in our clinic. On occasion, the health authority staff may need access to your chart to review their employees' work.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is changing?

Our clinic is growing, we are adding health authority employees to your care team. This may include nurses, social workers, pharmacists or dietitians. Having a larger team will make it easier for you to access health care and will improve the overall quality of your care.

In order to provide you with care, your health information may need to be shared with these team members.

Why is my information being shared?

Your health information is shared for two reasons:

1. So that our team members can make the best decisions about your care needs, based on your medical history, allergies, medications, etc.
2. So that the care team member's employer, such as a health authority, can monitor and review their staff's care practices to ensure you are receiving the best care.

Is any other information shared?

Anonymous, statistical information, such as the number of patients seen in a day by each care team member, may be shared with the health authority and the Ministry of Health. This will help identify gaps and opportunities for improvement in the care delivered to your community.

Can I opt out of having my information shared?

If you do not want your health information to be shared with health authority staff, please let your family doctor, nurse practitioner, or other clinic staff member know. Health authority staff cannot provide care to you without knowing your health information.

You will still receive care from your family doctor or nurse practitioner, and their staff.

As always, information about your care related to billing and Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage will continue to be shared, as required by law.

Is my information safe?

Yes. We have taken steps to ensure that any information shared about you is kept confidential by our staff, the health authority and the Ministry of Health. Your health information is always protected and collected, used and shared in compliance with BC's privacy laws.

What is a Health Authority?

In BC, there are five regional Health Authorities (Island Health, Northern Health, Interior Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health). There are also two provincial Health Authorities: the First Nations Health Authority and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

The Health Authorities are responsible for hospital care and some community-based programs such as Diabetes Education, Home Care Nursing and others. Health Authorities are funded by the BC Ministry of Health.

What is GPSC?

The General Practice Services Committee (GPSC) is a partnership between the Ministry of Health and Doctors of BC. Part of its mandate includes improvement to community health care services in BC, such as those you get from your family doctor. In BC, GPSC is leading efforts to establish Primary Care Networks.

What is a Primary Care Network?

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are groups of health care services within a community that, together, will meet your day-to-day healthcare needs. While PCNs may be linked with a nearby hospital, the focus of the PCN program is on community-based services such as family doctor offices, walk-in clinics, urgent and primary care centres and maternity services.

As part of the PCN program these community-based services may receive additional staff, such as nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dietitians and others. Here's an example of how this could benefit you: instead of being referred to another clinic, you can receive support from a social worker where you regularly receive your medical care.

What if I have questions?

Please email gpscinfosharing@doctorsofbc.ca.