

at a full-service hospital is not present at an outpatient centre.

Our article clearly shows a low rate of unplanned admissions and readmissions in patients who receive their surgery at the Jim Pattison Outpatient Clinic and Surgery Centre (JPOCSC). As mentioned in the article, our criteria for eligibility for surgery at this centre are clearly defined (ASA 1 or 2 and no history of significant sleep apnea or adverse reactions to general anesthetic). When all variables are controlled, the admission rate at a hospital is significantly higher than at an outpatient centre.

In a previous article looking at the unplanned admission rate in breast reconstruction patients at JPOCSC and Surrey Memorial Hospital, a significant difference in admission rates was observed when all other patient variables were controlled for.¹ The surgeons and anesthesiologists are the same individuals at both sites; therefore, the only remaining explanation is an institutional bias to admit. As the OR theatre staff is the same, this bias lies in the postanesthetic care units and day surgery units present in full-service hospitals. It is this inherent bias that our article hopes to change, showing that discharge rates for planned day-care surgeries can be very high, and that planned outpatient surgery centres cannot have a bias to admit.

—Paul Oxley, MD, FRCSC
Surrey

Reference

1. Oxley PJ, McNeely C, Janzen R, et al. Successful same day discharge after immediate post-mastectomy alloplastic breast reconstruction: A single tertiary centre retrospective audit. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg* 2020;73:1068-1074.

News We welcome news items of less than 300 words; we may edit them for clarity and length. News items should be emailed to journal@doctorsofbc.ca and must include your mailing address, telephone number, and email address. All writers should disclose any competing interests.

Temporary fee codes for 2021/22 flu season

As of 1 October 2021, temporary fee codes introduced last year for adult influenza and pneumococcal immunizations have been reactivated for the 2021/22 flu season. The reactivation was made to address the increased costs of providing immunizations during COVID-19.

In addition, pertussis immunization in pregnancy has been added to the list of immunizations for which these fee codes can be billed. This has been a publicly funded vaccination in BC since November 2020.

Both temporary respiratory immunization fee codes are effective for dates of service on or after 1 October 2021, with an end date of 30 April 2022.

Details of the fee

T10040 Respiratory immunization for patients 19 years of age or older (with visit):

- Payable for influenza (using ICD-9 code V048) and pneumococcal (using ICD-9 code V05) and pertussis during pregnancy (using ICD-9 code V036) immunizations.
- Payable in full with an office visit.
- If the primary purpose of the service is for immunization, bill fee item 10041 using ICD-9 code V048 for influenza, and/or V05 for pneumococcal and/or V036 for pertussis during pregnancy.

TB10041 Respiratory immunization for patients 19 years of age or older (without visit):

- Payable for influenza (using ICD-9 code V048) and pneumococcal (using ICD-9 code V05) and pertussis during pregnancy (using ICD-9 code V036) immunizations when the primary purpose of the service is for immunization.
- Not payable with an office visit.

#BePelvicHealthAware: Starting conversations about pelvic health

One of every two women will experience one or more pelvic floor symptoms during her lifetime. Led by Dr Roxana Geofrion, urogynecologist and UBC researcher, a Vancouver-based team launched www.bepelvichealthaware.ca and an accompanying social media campaign to promote pelvic floor health by sharing best practices. The website is home to four whiteboard animation videos, with more to come. Through simple images and plain language, the videos aim to illustrate best practice clinical guidelines on pelvic health and prevention of disease from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada.

So far, the videos cover pelvic health and pregnancy, obstetrical anal sphincter injuries, pessaries, and urinary incontinence. The website also offers information on pelvic health after childbirth, menopause-related issues, pelvic floor disorders such as prolapse or incontinence, and the importance of exercise to keep healthy. Website viewers are also encouraged to submit their own questions. The goal is to provide access to medical information on these sensitive topics and empower people to speak to their providers about childbirth trauma, healing, and prevention of further disease.

The website and its resources are also aimed at women's health care providers looking to direct their patients to simple evidence-based information on pelvic floor health during pregnancy and beyond.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.bepelvichealthaware.ca or follow the team on Instagram or Facebook. Visit www.bepelvichealthaware.ca/spread-the-word for a communications toolkit with sample web and social media content to share with patients.

VCH Medical Staff Hall of Honour, 2021 inductees



Dr Victoria Bernstein



Dr Anthony W. Chow



Dr Allan D. McKenzie



Dr Frank P. Patterson



Dr Gordon L. Phillips

Five doctors, all pioneers in their specialties, have been inducted into the VCH Medical Staff Hall of Honour for 2021.

Dr Victoria Bernstein, clinical professor of medicine, award-winning cardiologist, outstanding educator, and pioneer for women in cardiology. Dr Bernstein was an organizational leader in cardiology and medicine at VGH/UBC Hospital and for 30 years was the only woman cardiologist at VGH/UBC Hospital.

Dr Anthony W. Chow, professor of medi-

cine and founding head of the Division of Infectious Diseases. An outstanding researcher, Dr Chow published over 430 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters and has won many prestigious awards. He is also an inductee of the Brandon University Alumni Wall of Fame.

Dr Allan D. McKenzie (1917–1992), professor of surgery and past head of the Department of Surgery, UBC. Dr McKenzie was well recognized nationally and internationally for his clinical and academic contributions to the

specialty. Dr McKenzie's heroism during World War II was also noteworthy. While he was a volunteer regimental medical officer, his regiment came under heavy enemy fire in Holland. For his efforts to aid wounded soldiers under gunfire, he was awarded the Military Cross, a military decoration for valor within the British Empire second only to the Victoria Cross at the time.

Dr Frank P. Patterson (1915–2002), professor of surgery, past head of the Division of

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Hall of Honour, Continued from page 411

Orthopaedics, and past head of the Department of Surgery. Dr Patterson followed the footsteps of his esteemed father, VGH's first orthopaedic surgeon. Dr Patterson served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and became one of the preeminent orthopaedic surgeons in the province after the war, receiving many accolades. He was also a surgical historian and published a book on the history of surgery at VGH.

Dr Gordon L. Phillips, recruited from the United States. Dr Phillips developed the VGH Bone Marrow Transplant Unit for the province of BC, created the necessary infrastructure to support the unit, and created training programs and protocols associated with the unit. Recognized by the Vancouver Medical, Dental and Allied Staff Association for “bringing clinical renown to VGH” in 1989, Dr Phillips has provided hope to many patients with hematologic malignancies, which had previously been regarded as fatal conditions. Under his leadership, the VGH Bone Marrow Transplant Unit became one of the most successful in the country.

—Eric M. Yoshida, OBC, MD, FRCPC
Hall of Honour Committee Chair
President VMDAS

—Stephen Nantel, MD, FRCPC
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—Alison Harris, MD, FRCPC
Vice President VMDAS

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BC-based accredited PPE testing lab

Western Canada's first accredited personal protective equipment (PPE) lab, specializing in testing and validating PPE, is a pandemic-driven innovation from Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), with support from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA). VCH recognized the need for a local lab that could quickly test and validate the effectiveness of PPE to provide assurance to health care workers and patients in the province.

Located on the Vancouver General Hospital campus, the lab was completed in June 2020 and accredited in October 2020. The lab's initial mandate was to ensure the safety of health care workers and patients by providing testing for priority pieces of PPE, such as N95 respirators. The scope of the lab has since expanded, and the lab now offers seven tests, including tests for gowns (such as fluid resistance and hydrostatic pressure) and surgical masks (such as flammability and synthetic blood resistance) and is now available to any Canadian organization.

The lab team continues to work closely with the PHSA supply chain to ensure the supply of PPE obtained from new local, national, and international suppliers meets all Health Canada and WorkSafeBC regulatory requirements as well as certification requirements for the Canadian Standards Association and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

The lab is supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada, National Research Council Canada, Standards Council of Canada, BC's Ministry of Health, the University of British Columbia, the PHSA, and Providence Health Care.

For more information about the laboratory, including tests available, visit www.vch.ca/for-health-professionals/ppe-testing-laboratory.

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Text-message program to ease transition to parenthood

To help with the transition to parenthood, UBC researchers have launched SmartParent, Canada's first parenting education program delivered by text message.

Research¹ by the Public Health Agency of Canada has shown that new parents in Canada often struggle to find the information they need. Additionally, access to postnatal care and resources is complicated by many other factors, including education level, stigma and discrimination, language, income, whether parents live in rural or remote areas, and isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has

made things even more difficult for new parents because they haven't been able to attend parenting classes or visit parenting drop-in centres. Many of the resources they would normally depend on are limited or closed due to safety protocols. SmartParent will help fill these gaps and eliminate barriers.

Founded by Dr Patricia Janssen, professor at UBC Faculty of Medicine's School of Population and Public Health, SmartParent was developed by researchers from UBC in collaboration with Optimal Birth BC, the BC Ministry of Health, and BC health authorities, and in consultation with pregnant and new parents, practising nurses, doctors, midwives, and experts in maternal and child health.

SmartParent is modelled after the SmartMom program, a prenatal text messaging program that has been successfully supporting healthier pregnancies. The two programs are designed to work in tandem. SmartMom supports mothers with information during each week of their pregnancy, while SmartParent continues that support for parents from the birth of their child through the first year of life. During the pilot phase, SmartMom users showed lower rates of gestational diabetes and healthier pregnancy weights, and were less likely to smoke during their pregnancies than non-users. Their newborns were also healthier.

How SmartParent works

Parents receive three messages every week, each with a link to further information online. The messages are tailored to the infant's age and stage of development to help guide parents through each week of their baby's first year. The information is provided in an engaging, accessible format, intended to complement the information and support provided by parents' health care providers.

Information parents will receive

Comprehensive, evidence-based information covers everything from growth and developmental milestones, infant safety, feeding and sleeping, follow-up and screening procedures, and vaccinations. SmartParent also provides information for parents about mental health and self-care. Parents will receive resources on

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Spoken interpretation services available to community specialists

When working in their community offices, specialists can access free spoken language interpreting services as part of a 1-year pilot project, funded by the Specialist Services Committee (SSC)—a partnership of Doctors of BC and the BC government.

SSC is providing \$50 000 for this pilot project in response to physicians' feedback about supporting the delivery of safe and equitable patient care to diverse populations. Previously, this service was available to specialists who chose to pay privately or who work within the boundaries of health authority sites. Family doctors have access to the service through the PHSA.

Accessible through the Provincial Language Service, professional interpreters offer services that are available:

- Via telephone.
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- On demand.
- In roughly 240 languages.

How specialists can connect with an interpreter:

1. Call 1 833 718-2154 (toll free).
2. Select a language.
3. Enter your access code, which was emailed to you by your section head, or contact SSC at sscbc@doctorsofbc.ca.
4. Indicate you are a member of Doctors of BC.
5. Wait 30 to 60 seconds to connect with an interpreter.

For more information, visit www.phsa.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/interpreting-services.

how to deal with exhaustion, how to maintain healthy relationships, and how to manage the stresses of parenting.

How to sign up

Parents can register for SmartParent by texting the keyword smartparent to 12424, or by signing up at www.smartparentcanada.ca. Those interested in SmartMom can text smartmom to 12323 or visit www.smartmomcanada.ca.

Reference

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. What mothers say: The Canadian maternity experiences survey. Ottawa, 2009. Accessed 1 November 2020. www.publichealth.gc.ca/mes.

Dr Josh Greggain, Doctors of BC president-elect



Dr Josh Greggain was acclaimed as Doctors of BC's president-elect. For over 15 years, Dr Greggain has been a family physician for rural, Indigenous, and underserved populations. He became involved with Doctors of BC in 2020 as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, and previously held a number of medical leadership roles including medical director at the Hope Medical Centre and the Fraser Canyon Clinic, site medical director at Fraser Canyon Hospital, and board member and chair of the Chilliwack Division of Family Practice. He was also instrumental in development of the House of Sexwna7m, an Indigenous-led primary care outreach clinic in Anderson Creek.

Dr Greggain will begin the role on 1 January 2022, at which time current president-elect, Dr Ramneek Dosanjh, will become president.

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REFERENCES:

1. DAYVIGO Product Monograph, Eisai Limited, November 3, 2020.
2. Rosenberg R, Murphy P, Zammit G, et al. Comparison of Lemborexant With Placebo and Zolpidem Tartrate Extended Release for the Treatment of Older Adults With Insomnia Disorder: A Phase 3 Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Network Open*. 2019;2(12):e1918254.

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