

VMAC HIGHLIGHTS: February 2024 meeting summary

The Vancouver Medical Advisory Committee (VMAC) is VCH's senior medical administrative body for medical staff in the Vancouver Community of Care, including Vancouver Acute and Vancouver Community.

Public Health update

- Flu season is winding down; RSV rates are decreasing and COVID rates are stable. NACI recommends spring COVID booster for vulnerable populations.
- 2023 is the worst year on record for overdose deaths in BC; PHO has released recommendations on safe supplies.
- UBC Human Early Learning Partnership reports about a third of children require support in school and development; there is disparity among neighbourhoods.

CST update

- The team is actively preparing for Richmond Hospital's go-live.
- VGH Cycle 2 clinics went live February 5.
- Awaiting funding for some other sites including GF Strong.

Vancouver Acute leadership update

- The Hospital at Home program launched January 22 with positive feedback from families.
- Car-T is aiming for its first patient in mid-March.
- We are first in the province to pilot sacral nerve modulation with 40 cases underway.
- MoH will fund surge spaces and unfunded beds; we are looking at transitional spaces and ED diversion work.
- Two new directors hired: one for MHSU flow and the other for Transition, Access, and Flow.
- The UBC Student Health move is complete, allowing for ED expansion and a new medical clinic in the old sleep lab. The STAT unit move this summer will add additional capacity to congested UBCH inpatient units.
- Congrats to Dr Teresa Tsang for a record-breaking 562 organ transplants in BC.

Vancouver Community leadership update

- New interim medical directors will help with specialized substance use services, detox site shifting, Road to Recovery, and general access and flow challenges.
- The MAiD portfolio has moved to VC with a new regional medical director.
- Government is proposing an extension until 2027 to temporary exclusion of MAiD eligibility in circumstances where the sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.
- Provincial plans coming for long-term care.

Professional Practice update

- HEABC and NBA will hire 27 clinical mentors across VCH, with 7.5 FTEs in VA. They will provide elbow support as part of the retention and recruitment strategy.
- VA is adding 15 Nurse Independent Activities (NIAs), 9 Nurse Initiated Protocols (NIPs), and 4 Nurse Initiated Investigations (NIIs) in the ED and high-acuity areas. These will optimize the nursing scope of practice to reduce requests to providers and decrease the need for verbal orders.
- We are looking to expand the scope of RPNs for patient transfers to MHSU and to override limitations.
- A practice leader for model of care & optimization is in the process of being hired.