

VMAC HIGHLIGHTS: March 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

- A measles case was identified at Richmond Hospital in early March with some exposures in the community.
- Respiratory illness season is fading. A campaign is expected for people 65+ and immunocompromised to have a COVID vaccine booster through their pharmacy.
- There has been no update on a masking timeline within health facilities.

Hospital at Home Program

- This program provides hospital-level care in a patient's home; selected patients have outcomes as good as or better than hospitalized patients.
- We are aiming for nine patients by end of spring with a goal to expand to other community sites and services.

Vancouver Acute leadership update

- All phase 1 beds supported by the Ministry of Health are now operational (247 across VCH with 84 beds at VA). We are working with the ministry on phase 2.
- A second clinic cycle went live with CST in February; another clinic cycle go-live event is scheduled for July.
- A Nuance/Dragon FESR pilot to help with speech recognition is underway in clinical areas.
- There have been significant infrastructure updates as part of phase 2 of the OR redevelopment. This has affected the main ICU with 10 ICU beds staffed now in PACU 2 for the next year.
- We are in the early stages of looking at schematic designs for expanding the UBC Student Health Clinic and exploring a new urgent care primary centre.
- Kudos to Dr. Wai Ching Lam for multiple achievements and VGH for being recognized by Newsweek as one of the world's best hospitals in 2024.

Vancouver Community leadership update

- The Acute Home-Based Treatment Team launched; it supports patients transitioning from acute health.
- Harbour Light Detox Centre's new location has increased capacity.
- Providers are opting for the longitudinal family physician payment model resulting in vacancies in VC, which is causing strains.
- The sunset clause in the MAiD program has been extended until 2027.

Mobile Overdose Prevention Service at VGH

- Illicit drug deaths in VCH have been increasing since the pandemic despite overdose prevention services being in place.
- We started exploring the idea of overdose prevention sites over the last few years and implementing them in areas of high overdose rates. This resulted in 12 new sites in Vancouver.
- A mobile unit provides low-barrier, respectful, and trauma-informed care to people who use substances.
- We are proposing to pilot a temporary mobile service for 8 to 10 hours a day, seven days a week over six months. This has been endorsed by SET. The goal is to establish a fixed OPS or ePOS.