

# VMAC HIGHLIGHTS: April 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

- Respiratory illness levels continue to drop; PHO expected to declare season over soon.
- PHO also expected to declare the end of the pandemic emergency, along with associated orders.
- COVID-19 spring booster campaign launched and will roll out at all VCH long-term facilities.

## VCH conflict of interest policy

- This initiative was put on hold during the pandemic and has now been revived.
- VCH hopes to engage stakeholders including medical staff to finalize the policy.

## Vancouver Community leadership update

- Staffing pressures continue with 35 FTE vacancies currently across all VC programs.
- VC leaders continue to look at compensation, contracts, rotations, skills mix, and care delivery models to sustain both medical staff and clients.
- Medical staff shortages continue to be a challenge for VC's withdrawal management beds.
- Withdrawal management beds at the George Pearson Campus replaced Harbour Light detox beds in March. It offers a larger open space for patients and clients.
- Operations of the 10-bed Cottage Hospice are transitioning to the Vancouver Hospice Society.

## Vancouver Acute leadership update

- The Beacon Award for Excellence (silver level) was awarded recently to the VGH ICU. The award recognizes exceptional care through improved outcomes and greater overall satisfaction. Congratulations!
- VGH's long-service recognition event on April 4 celebrates over 1,000 staff, medical staff, and volunteers.
- Medical staff reappointments are ongoing.
- Perfusion services have been affected due to staff leaves and changes.
- Group calls for surge concerns and PTN calls are impacting medical staff burnout.
- Royal College requirements led to the departure of a resident.

## Professional Practice

- VCH has hired 6.5 clinical mentors as part of the Strategic Nursing Staff Initiative.
- VCH has recruited an executive director to implement the Minimum Nurse-to-Patient Ratio strategy regionally.
- Provincial funding in the form of bursaries and grants is available to support staffing including internationally educated nurses, bridging from LPN to RN.
- VGH is the pilot site for the Regional Wound Care Strategy. This will have surgeon input and standardize skin and wound care across VCH.
- Enhancements are being made to the screening forms for tiered violence alerts.
- Provider engagement is being sought for a [decision support tool](#) for Alcohol Withdrawal Assessment & Management Tools.