Vancouver Medical Dental and Allied Staff Association Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2026 6:00-7:00PM Hybrid

Why can't my patient get a scan? Imaging Access in 2026 and Beyond

Call to order

- The Quarterly meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Dr. Adam Meneghetti, President, with 17 members in person and 158 virtually.
- Speakers
  Dr. Alison Harris, Regional Department Head, Medical Imaging VCH & PHC
  Dr. Savvas Nicolaou, Department Head, Medical Imaging VGH & UBCH
  Susan Larson, Executive Director, Medical Imaging VCH & PHC
  Gail Malenstyn, Vice President, Vancouver and Richmond Acute
  Kyle Eckhardt, Special Projects Director Medical Imaging Services

VCH Medical Imaging - Scope of Operations

- Around 60 appointed radiologists and Allied Staff of approximately 561 employees, 373 FTE
- Service Expansion with ER CT scanner replacements completed in Aug 2025, Xray rooms at VA
- 2028 completion of VGH CT, IR, Nuclear Med., DHCC & Blusson Xray, UBCH angio and CT

Protocoling/Challenges

- Requisitions evaluated/triaged by radiologist, prioritized using guidelines through Canadian Association of Radiologists, waitlist/wait time data not publicly available
- Human Health Resources, Equipment needs and demands are some challenges

Strategies

- Increase capacity and how to prioritize
- Improve efficiency, LPNs prepping patients
- Integration of AI

Q&A

- Requisition does not have levels of priority (P1/P2)
  -based on clinical info is available on the requisition, to add expected timeline of imaging
- Referring clinic not receiving information of when patients are booked
  -text messaging to patients recently implemented, there is work at a provincial level to work on having providers receive information
- Are there plans for community radiology labs to upload to Careconnect, turn around times for imaging reports
  -Ministry is aware and will be a financial project to be linked, guidelines are followed how quickly scans should be reported
- Does sending requisitions to multiple sites help
  -it doesn't help to have requisitions to multiple sites
  -central intake office for MRI and a triage was implemented where requisition is seen similar studies are done to reduce duplication
  -patient's urgency and home location considered
- What should clinician do if an expected appointment timeline is not met
  -directly communicate with a radiologist to try and expedite, no direct and streamline
- Clinicians are not made aware the level of priority their patients have received until they have been notified of the patient's appointment.

-Docs of BC want to move toward a full digital order system, MI has challenges with Docs of BC and their push back
-MI needs permission to communicate from the Ministry to project, estimate wait time on exams and can be included in notifications sent back to referring physicians

Adjournment, Upcoming events

- September 21, 2026 Quarterly Meeting