

PORT ALBERNI PRIMARY CARE NETWORK

OCTOBER 2021

 **Central Island**
Division of Family Practice
A GPSC initiative



WHAT IS A DIVISION OF FAMILY PRACTICE?

The Central Island Division of Family Practice was formed in 2019 through a union of the Oceanside and Port Alberni Divisions. We are a local non-profit society of community-based primary care physicians and nurse practitioners based in Central Vancouver Island. The division gives local primary care providers an opportunity to work collaboratively with Island Health, the First Nations Health Authority, the GPSC, and the Ministry of Health to identify health care needs in the local community and develop solutions to meet those needs.



WHAT IS A PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)?

- A PCN is a clinical network of local primary care service providers located in a geographical area. A PCN is enabled by a partnership between the local division of family practice and health authority, along with local First Nations.



The Big Picture

TRANSFORMING BC'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

From a traditional system that is episodic and siloed.

Many people in BC can't get a family doctor or timely access to the full range of care they need. GPs are under stress and the threat of burnout is real. Meanwhile, hospitals are facing unsustainable pressures.

To a new system that is robust and integrated.

It's why doctors, divisions of family practice, health authorities and provincial partners are working to create an integrated system of care across BC, where patients have access to quality primary health care that effectively meets their needs.

THE FOUNDATION

Together, PMHs and PCNs position primary care at the centre of an integrated, team-based health care system.



PATIENT MEDICAL HOME (PMH)

A team-based family practice operating at an ideal level where patients get the majority of their care and their primary care providers focus on diagnoses, patient relationships and longitudinal care.

PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)

A clinical network of physicians and other providers in a geographic area who work together in new ways to expand team-based supports for GPs and patients.



WHAT DOES A PRIMARY CARE NETWORK DO?

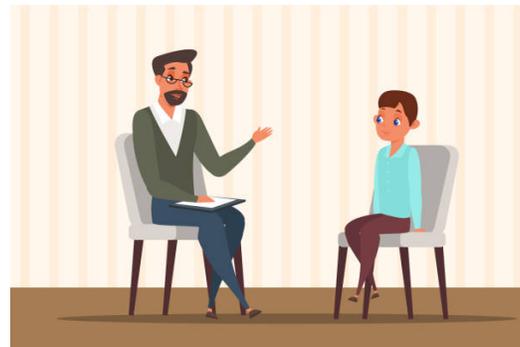
IN A PCN, PATIENTS GET ACCESS TO TIMELY,
COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED TEAM-BASED
CARE, GUIDED BY EIGHT CORE ATTRIBUTES:

ACCESS & ATTACHMENT TO QUALITY PRIMARY CARE.
EXTENDED HOURS.
SAME DAY ACCESS TO URGENT CARE.
ADVICE & INFORMATION.
COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY CARE.
CULTURALLY SAFE CARE.
COORDINATED CARE.
CLEAR COMMUNICATION.



BC PCNS HAVE INCLUDED:

- Urgent Primary Care Centres
- Community Health Centres
- Nurse Practitioner Clinics
- Nurses in Family Practice
- Social Workers in Family Practice
- Mobile Clinics
- Occupational Therapists in Family Practice
- Pharmacists in Family Practice



PORT ALBERNI PRIMARY CARE NETWORK WORK TO DATE

Consultations took place over the summer and fall of 2021 to find out what health care workers, First Nations, community organizations, and patients in the Alberni Valley thought were the main issues with accessing primary care. The main issues that we heard were:

Lack of access to primary caregivers

Need for culturally safe, trauma-informed care

Lack of access to mental health services

Need for city centre clinic services on a walk-in basis

Lack of access to substance use services

Wound care for the street entrenched

Need for navigators or advocates to help find services

Need for a mobile healthcare unit for remote areas

Lack of Maternity services

PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEXT STEPS

Our Port Alberni Primary Care Network working group consists of the following members:

- Physicians
- Nurse Practitioners
- First Nations Health Authority
- Island Health
- First Nations Partners
- The Division of Family Practice

The Ministry of Health uses data we have supplied to calculate how many people are lacking access to care in the Alberni Valley. With this information, the working group collaboratively decides which issues are of the biggest concern, and solutions to those issues are written into a Service Plan which is submitted to the Ministry of Health. If the Ministry of Health approves the Service Plan, we receive funding to start building the services in 2022.



QUESTIONS?

