
NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Provincial Health Services Authority

First BC Complex Chronic Disease Program opens

Vancouver – Starting today, a newly-created Complex Chronic Disease Program located at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre will begin accepting patient referrals.

The Complex Chronic Disease Program (CCDP) assists people with fibromyalgia, myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome and tick borne illnesses, such as Lyme disease.

In addition to providing treatment and care, the program also includes a strong research component. The CCDP will support clinicians and researchers in their pursuit of causes, diagnosis and potential treatments for these types of chronic conditions.

The CCDP offers an integrative care approach. Each patient in the program will receive a comprehensive medical assessment and will be able to access other health care services including specialty medicine, nursing, social work, physiotherapy, and naturopathy.

Quotes:

Dr. Alison Bested, Medical Director, Complex Chronic Disease Program, BC Women's Hospital

"Working with family doctors and other primary-care providers, the Complex Chronic Disease Program will increase the capacity of our health-care system to treat chronic conditions in patients across BC. The \$2 million investment by the Ministry of Health to establish this important program and related research activities will make a difference."

Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Health

"British Columbia is taking a leading role within Canada with the creation of the Complex Chronic Disease Program. In the future, the program will use telehealth technology to help train other doctors to build capacity. Our goal is to improve the ability for people from all regions throughout the province access quality care."

Background

Patients will require a physician's referral to be considered for admission into the program. Referral forms may be accessed by calling the program (telephone: 604.875.2061 fax: 604.875.3738). After a patient has been referred, their needs will be further assessed by program staff, through the use of a triage process. The triage criteria have been created with input from patient advocacy groups and a medical ethicist to ensure a fair process that

prioritizes patients appropriately. Once a date and time has been determined for a qualifying patient, the CCDP will then contact the referring physician with the information.

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides services for pregnant women, newborns, families and women with specialized health needs from across the province. BC Women's is an academic health centre affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the Women's Health Research Institute. For more information, please visit www.bcwomens.ca.

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