

# ABOUT US: WHO WE ARE



Working Together for Better Kidney Health

**The BC Provincial Renal Agency (BCPRA) is the driving force behind the BC renal network. It is a model unique in Canada and internationally, designed to improve kidney patients' quality of life and outcomes, and to support sound fiscal management and system sustainability.**

The accomplishments of the network are significant — from the only province-wide integrated registry for kidney patients, a pharmacy formulary that funds a broad range of medications and a coordinated lab strategy that supports earlier patient identification, to a provincially-coordinated independent hemodialysis program and provincial guidelines for renal program development.

The bottom line is that BC is one of the only places in North America offering a fully coordinated system of renal care for kidney patients. No matter where they live in the province, kidney patients have access to the same level of care and a variety of treatment options. And, people with kidney disease in BC have better health outcomes than kidney patients elsewhere in Canada.

## What We Do

**Planning and funding:** Working with the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and the five regional health authorities, BCPRA plans and coordinates kidney care services across the province. In partnership with health authority renal programs, we manage an annual budget of approximately \$172.5 million — funding allocated by the BC Ministry of Health on a per patient/per year basis to our agency through PHSA.

**Provincial standards and guidelines:** BCPRA develops a range of provincial standards and guidelines to ensure consistent and effective care across the province. These include renal program guidelines, clinical practice guidelines for family physicians, vascular access guidelines, peritoneal dialysis and independent hemodialysis guidelines, water quality standards and a variety of medication guidelines.

**Support for the renal network:** BCPRA supports a network of committees and working groups that enhance and facilitate the coordination of all aspects of kidney care in the province. From service delivery and funding, to research, education and patient support, kidney care providers from across BC participate in committees such as our hemodialysis committee, information management council, PD committee, pharmacy and formulary committee, medical advisory committee and professional groups such as renal managers, nurses, dietitians, vascular access nurses and social workers.

**Information systems:** BCPRA operates the only province-wide integrated registry for kidney disease and transplant patients: the Patient Record and Outcome Management Information System (PROMIS). PROMIS provides real-time, accurate data to support a broad range of functions, from individual patient care management and renal unit management to continuous quality improvement, research and outcomes-based planning.

**Awareness-building:** BCPRA communicates with key stakeholders about kidney disease, the importance of early detection and the province's renal network through a range of vehicles—

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including our electronic newsletter *Renal News*, our website, social media (Facebook, Twitter), conferences and workshops, and our partners' publications—as well as our media relations program. Our website ([www.bcrenalagency.ca](http://www.bcrenalagency.ca)) offers information about renal care in BC as well as useful resources such as pamphlets and videos for members of the renal community, patients and the general public.

## Kidney Care Services in BC

Approximately 1 in 10 people in BC have some degree of chronic kidney disease, and many don't even know it. More than 14,500 patients are registered on the provincial renal database; about 2,900 require dialysis to stay alive. BCPRA, in cooperation with the five health authority renal programs, coordinates and facilitates service delivery to these patients in 14 hospitals and 27 community dialysis units throughout the province.

Clinical programs directed by BC's five regional health authorities include:

- Chronic kidney disease clinics (for patients who have kidney disease, but do not require dialysis)
- In-hospital hemodialysis
- Community unit hemodialysis
- Independent dialysis:
  - Peritoneal dialysis
  - Self-care hemodialysis in community or hospital-based dialysis units
  - Home-based hemodialysis.

For details on kidney programs and services in each health authority, visit [bcrenalagency.ca](http://bcrenalagency.ca) and click on Kidney Services.

In addition to coordinating and facilitating service delivery, BCPRA also leads a variety of provincial initiatives aimed at improving all aspects of the continuum of care, from early identification and care to dialysis options and end of life issues.

## BC Provincial Renal Agency Organizational Structure

BCPRA's administrative group coordinates the activities of a province-wide network of committees and working groups representing all aspects of kidney care in BC.

Senior administrative positions at BCPRA include:

- Provincial Executive Director
- Director, Internal Operations
- Director of Operations, PROMIS
- Director, Strategic Initiatives and Development
- Director, Business Planning
- Strategy Lead, Home Therapies and Palliative Care
- Senior Officer, Methodology and Analytics
- Lead, Infrastructural Planning

In addition to these positions, BCPRA has a small administrative support group.