

Value-Added Dollars from PD Contract Support Innovation, Improve Peritoneal Dialysis Care

Value-added funds from a provincial contract negotiated by BC Renal and the Provincial Health Services Authority improve care for peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients and quality of work-life for clinicians across BC.



Baxter

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While a portion of these funds is used at the provincial level to support PD initiatives of the BC renal network, the majority is allocated to health authority PD programs to meet diverse needs at the local level. Collectively the objective is to optimize the prevalence of PD throughout BC, and to ensure quality PD patient care and enhanced staff knowledge and expertise.

Value-Added Funds Support Provincial PD Initiatives

BC Renal is dedicated to ensuring all end-stage kidney patients are considered for home therapies. In 2019-2020, value-added funds were used to support initiatives aimed at increasing PD uptake across health authority renal programs, as well as to ensure high-quality care.

Standardized PD Guidelines, Procedures and Patient Materials

The [BC Renal PD Committee](#), which includes multidisciplinary representatives from all regional health authorities, provides leadership to a range of initiatives, including the development of [standardized guidelines, procedures](#) and [patient materials](#) aimed at improving PD patients' quality of care and experience. The committee also monitors clinical indicators and outcomes, is a forum to discuss current and emerging practices, and supports engagement and networking.

In 2019-2020, initiatives included planning for the provincial implementation of a new PD cyclor with remote monitoring capabilities, exploring the expansion of the PD Assist program, implementation of guides to support patients as they transition

towards independent dialysis, and development of staff resources for clinicians in rural and remote health care facilities who provide care to PD patients.

Nephrology Home Dialysis Fellows

A key component of the BC Renal mandate is to support knowledge development through research and teaching, as well as succession planning within the broader renal network. One strategy to achieve this goal is the funding of a home therapies fellowship. More information is available on the BC Renal website – go to bcrenalagency.ca and click on 'Careers'.

Value-Added Funds Supporting Regional PD Initiatives

At the health authority level, projects and activities supported by value-added funding in 2019-2020 fiscal year included the following:

Staff Education and Training

Access to ongoing staff education and knowledge exchange is a significant contributor to job satisfaction and quality of work-life, as well as the ongoing delivery of best practice PD care. By participating in education programs, team-building activities, attending conferences, workshops and provincial meetings, as well as having access to journal subscriptions, PD professionals learn about emerging practices and innovative initiatives, and are able to share this information with their renal programs.

Last year, funds were used to sponsor health authority staff

participation in the following conferences, workshops and events, among others:

- International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis
- BC Kidney Days
- Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN)
- Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses & Technologists (CANNT)
- Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers (CANSW)
- National Kidney Foundation Annual Scientific Meeting
- Northwest Dietitians Conference
- American Nurses Nephrology Association Conference
- Annual Dialysis Conference
- World Congress of Nephrology

PD Nurses Training

The challenge of an aging workforce has impacted PD programs across BC. The BCIT PD advanced online course, which provides the theoretical knowledge required to work in a PD unit, has been a key component of the educational strategy to ensure programs are staffed with knowledgeable nurses who can quickly orientate to their respective PD unit.

Patient Education and Training

Ensuring quality in all aspects of patient education helps encourage patient self-management, improves quality of life and supports positive health outcomes. A portion of PD value-added funds is consistently dedicated by health authority renal programs to advancing education and training in peritoneal dialysis for eligible patients.

Nanaimo Accommodation Project – Island Health

The expenses incurred by patients from remote areas of Vancouver Island to receive PD training in Nanaimo can be a barrier to patients' selecting a home-based therapy. The Island Health renal program launched a pilot to determine if removing or reducing the cost of accommodation while training could be a viable strategy to increase the uptake of home kidney replacement therapies, and achieve a subsequent net cost saving for the system. This locally co-sponsored initiative is still ongoing, with the renal program preparing to evaluate the results and considering establishing community partnerships to support this work.

PD Peer Support Coffee Session – Interior Health

The Interior Health renal program organized a dedicated peer support session for PD patients in one of its clinics. Fourteen patients attended the session, with all expressing they would attend again, as the session helped them work toward their health and wellness goals. Patients appreciated the experiences of others, trivia games and the nephrologist presentation. Recommendations from participants for future topics were also gathered. In the light of the ongoing pandemic, the program is

currently exploring hosting future sessions virtually.

Home is Best – Island Health

The Island Health renal program continues to use a portion of available PD funds to offer an open house focused on home therapies, specifically PD. This is an excellent opportunity for patients to interact with their peers who are currently on home therapies in a fun and relaxed environment that promotes learning. The program has observed – based on the feedback gathered from patients – that when looking at opportunities to promote home-based therapies, the value of peer-to-peer support and education is extremely high, and such education is desired by patients. The program plans to continue offering this event with the support of PD value-added dollars in subsequent years.



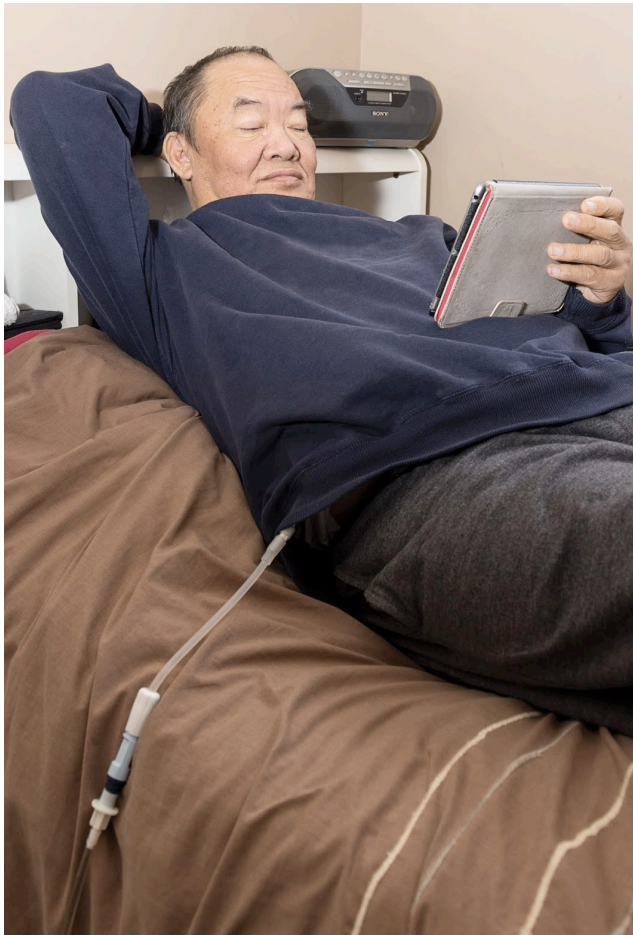
Equipment to Support Pediatric PD Research – BC Children's Hospital

BCCH invested part of the available PD funds to acquire minor electronic equipment to better support its research activities in pediatric PD. With pediatric nephrology being a highly specialized and somewhat isolated area, in-house research activities are paramount to ensuring the highest possible quality of care based on the latest evidence for children living with kidney disease.

Implementation of the AMIA APD System – Interior Health

The AMIA with Sharesource APD system, which is being rolled out province-wide by BC Renal, enables staff to remotely monitor PD patient treatments to better support assessment and evaluation of care. In 2019-2020, the Interior Health renal program focused on enhanced training for all PD clinicians across the region to offer

the new cyclor to eligible patients. Interior Health used champions to facilitate the roll-out of the system across all regional sites and to improve the sharing of clinical experience between sites. Observing that the new system has been particularly positive for patients in rural and remote areas, the program plans to increase capacity to offer the AMIA APD cyclor as new patients begin PD.



Best Dialysis: Improving Independent Dialysis Rates – Island Health

Building on project work from the previous year, the Island Health renal program continued to focus on standardizing processes within and between kidney care clinics (KCCs) to the extent possible, and clarify PROMIS data captured within the Modality Education/Decision Module. The program identified that the key areas of improvement included the decision process and documentation re: modality plan, and the process for ongoing review of the modality plan. Gaps in this data collection might prevent patients from transitioning to an independent dialysis modality. The program will continue to work with BC Renal statisticians and PROMIS data analysts to develop standardized reports of clinic data for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of clinic performance and processes.




Patient and Care Provider Education and Training – Northern Health

The Northern Health renal program traditionally places a significant emphasis on supporting PD patients in their homes to help them transition to and stay on this independent therapy. One of the main imperatives behind this approach is the region’s vast and remote rural areas, making patient movement challenging. In 2019-2020, the renal program planned to organize two staff trips to support remote patients in their homes throughout the region. Due to growing patient numbers and clinic/patient training demands, this wasn’t possible, but the program was able to focus on capacity building within the Northwest region and supported staff from Prince Rupert to come to Prince George for PD education and training. The program plans to continue efforts in both patient and care provider education and capacity building, while also focusing more on virtual opportunities to connect with care providers and communities throughout the region. The program also plans to do at least one regional trip in 2020-2021.



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Health Authority Renal Programs

- BC Children’s Provincial Renal Program
- Fraser Health
- Interior Health
- Island Health
- Northern Health
- Vancouver Coastal Health/
- Providence Health Care

