



## PHYSICIAN LEADS:

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[www.encompasspregnancy.ca](http://www.encompasspregnancy.ca)



## PROJECT APPROACH: COORDINATED EFFORTS

The development of a team-based maternity care model within Cranbrook's new UPCC is an achievement the community can be proud of and an innovative approach to sustaining regional maternity care. It could not have happened without the commitment of so many and the collaboration between EK Division of Family Practice, Interior Health, Ktunaxa Nation, EKRH, EK Primary Care Network, UPCC, local FP-OBs, and the support of the Shared Care Committee.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project sought to involve Cranbrook's maternity care network bringing midwives, Public Health nurses, labour and delivery nurses, maternity nurses, adult mental health nurses, resource and program providers, and a specialist together for patient pathway workshops, project update and information sessions, referral algorithm development and, later in the project, case review opportunities. Eight FP/OBs worked collaboratively to develop tools such as standardized care checklists, referral processes, workflows, schedules, and a team agreement. They met regularly and enhanced their team approach through cultural safety training, and team-building workshops. Much work focused on skills and tools to use the UPCC's EMR system.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- A robust and sustainable maternity care team within the East Kootenay Primary Care Network where everyone practices regularly and delivers equal services thanks to clear guidelines.
- Local maternity physicians report an increase in satisfaction with their maternity practice after establishing and participating in a team-based maternity service.
- Improved maternity care data collection, communication and coordination across clinical and community-based supports.
- Engaged and connected maternity care network
- Improve patient access to consistent and equal prenatal and postnatal care including standardized screening, workups, and referrals to specialists and allied health providers.
- Patients indicate they experience a positive pregnancy care journey, including easy access to a maternity physician.



Visit Encompass Pregnancy Care website

## NEXT STEPS

Encompass Pregnancy Care cannot be sustained by the dedication of Cranbrook's FP-OBs alone. Maternity care in the community remains vulnerable because of retirements and shifting priorities amongst providers. There are many factors that will play a role in sustaining the team-based model developed through this project including funding, space, advocacy, support and financial viability.

Some next steps are:

Fully integrating Registered Midwives (RMs) into Encompass Pregnancy Care as part of a new shared Care Project.

Continued support for relationship development among the FP-OBs-RMs and their efforts toward continual improvement, standardized care, team communication and group advocacy.

# ENCOMPASS PREGNANCY CARE

Encompass Pregnancy Care Cranbrook is a team-based pregnancy care practice co-located in Cranbrook's Urgent and Primary Care Centre (UPCC). The new model launched officially in May 2022 and is an innovative approach to sustaining maternity care in Cranbrook and area.

## HOW IT STARTED

Maternity care was in a precarious situation in Cranbrook and Kimberley. Family physicians struggled to maintain service to their own pregnant patients, the patients of colleagues, unattached patients, complex patients, and patients from surrounding communities. In 2021, several maternity physicians in Cranbrook stopped providing maternity services and others considered giving up their practice. Recruiting new FPs who wanted to practice maternity care was challenging. At the same time, two obstetricians left the community leaving one specialist to support the region. Sustaining and enhancing the community's pregnancy care model before it collapsed was a priority.

## THE GOAL

Develop a shared, team-based maternity service and a collaborative maternity network to service all patients, easily connect attached and unattached patients to interdisciplinary pre- and post-natal care, and sustain providers in Cranbrook and Kimberley.