

COVID-19 Communication to NSDFP Members

March 26th, 2020

Palliative Care for COVID Patients – A Message from Dr Peter Edmunds

Dear Physicians,

As part of VCH preparations to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Shore palliative care program is making some important changes to the services we deliver.

The Palliative Care Unit (7 West) has Moved to the Hospice

The scope of services at hospice has been expanded to accommodate increased palliative symptom control within the North Shore Hospice, allowing us to relinquish the PCU beds in LGH. We will manage patients with higher needs at the hospice site, removing this vulnerable population from acute care and discharging them to the community once they are medically stable.

Palliative Patients in LGH

Patients with palliative needs requiring acute care dependent on LGH will be managed within the acute medical beds by the physician attached to the unit on which they are admitted. Palliative care physicians will continue to provide consultation and co-management for these patients.

Hospice Care

Hospice care will continue to be provided at the NS hospice for those unable to be supported at home, accepting admissions from both acute care and the community as usual. Referrals to hospice will be triaged by the palliative care team. Patients in the hospice will be admitted under a single palliative care physician to minimize exposure.

COVID-19 Specific Palliative Care Issues

- Guidelines for managing end of life care in COVID-19 patients: [Palliative Care for COVID Patients](#)
- PPE kits are available for home visiting.
- We are working on medication kits specific to COVID-19 to be available from certain pharmacies. This information will be forthcoming.
- Palliative care physician assistance is available 24 / 7 to answer questions and assist where possible. (call LGH switchboard 604 988 3131)

Thank you,
Dr. Peter Edmunds, Senior Medical Director

North Shore Medical Imaging (NSMI)

Please note that NSMI has made modifications to its referral guidelines. Hours of operations at the North Vancouver location will also change as of March 30, 2020. The West Vancouver office is closed until further notice. For all details, please read [this letter](#).

The Division is Exploring Options for Clinic Space

As previously communicated, the Division's COVID-19 Task Group has been working on a number of initiatives to support its members, including the development of local PCN Medical Clinics in each of our three PCN's for patients needing in-person assessment or treatment and whose physicians are unable to see them in-person due to the need for self-isolation and/or being medically compromised.

We are contacting you today to see if any existing clinic would be interested in becoming one of the 3 PCN Medical Clinics. The requirements are as follows.

Can your office provide:

1. At least 6 exam rooms
2. Separate entry/exit ways
3. Maintain 2m between patients as they move through the office
4. Have plexiglass/sneeze guard protecting reception
5. Washable seats and flooring
6. Sinks in exam rooms
7. Supplies; hand sanitizer, paper towels, soap
8. Autoclave/minor surgery equipment
9. Easy access from outside- both elevator and stair; dedicated for your office or shared with others.

If you are interested, please contact us at northshore@divisionsbc.ca
