



Mandate

The BC Renal Agency (BCRA) coordinates the BC renal network, an innovative model for renal care designed to improve quality of life and outcomes for patients, and to support sound fiscal management and system sustainability.

As an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), BCRA supports PHSA's three primary strategic directions: Improving quality outcomes and providing better value for patients; Promoting healthier populations; Contributing to a sustainable health care system.

BCPRA's support for these high-level directions is provided through a range of initiatives, including commitments to:

- Improve identification and referral of high-risk and newly-diagnosed patients.
- Increase GP awareness of kidney disease screening tests and test results.
- Increase patient uptake of independent dialysis.



BC Renal Agency Fighting an epidemic of kidney disease

How we serve BC

It is estimated up to 200,000 people in BC have some degree of chronic kidney disease. More than 14,500 patients are registered on the provincial renal database, including almost 3,000 who require dialysis to stay alive.

In cooperation with BC's five regional health authority renal programs, the BC Renal Agency (BCRA) funds and coordinates service delivery in 13 hospitals and 27 community dialysis units throughout the province. Services provided by the health authorities include:

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

Beyond direct care

In addition to coordinating and facilitating service delivery, BCRA leads a variety of provincial initiatives aimed at improving the continuum of care.

- BCRA operates the only province-wide registry in Canada (PROMIS) for kidney and transplant patients. Through the integration of transplant data, PROMIS now supports all aspects of renal care planning and delivery.
- The BC Renal Agency is a leader in Canada for the early identification and treatment of chronic kidney disease. This strategy has helped ease the growth rate for dialysis in BC.
- The BC Renal Agency and BC Transplant, an agency of PHSA, have partnered together to create the world's first fully integrated model of care for patients with chronic kidney disease. Successes to date include the integration of information systems, a joint annual confer-

ence hosting over 500 health care professionals, and the development of best practice clinical pathways.

- BC is the only province in Canada with a provincially-coordinated, locally-implemented independent hemodialysis program.
- BC is a leader nationally with respect to patient uptake of peritoneal dialysis — a home-based method of dialysis. BCRA supports a provincial PD clinicians' group dedicated to developing standards of care for PD patients.
- BCRA is leading a provincial medication reconciliation program, the first of its kind for chronic outpatients in BC. The program is designed to prevent medication errors.
- In partnership with health authority renal programs, BCRA has developed a provincial end-of-life (EOL) framework for patients, designed to support the delivery of high quality care for people with kidney disease in the last years, months or days of their lives. BC is the first province to address EOL care for kidney patients in such a coordinated manner.

- BC provides the most extensive financial support for renal medications in Canada, ensuring that all dialysis patients receive medications essential to their kidney care if these drugs aren't covered by other programs, such as BC Pharmacare.
- BCRA has leveraged opportunities for significant cost savings through provincial contracts for medications, nutritional supplements and dialysis supplies.

Research and education

The BC Renal Agency works with universities, community colleges and the Kidney Foundation to provide education opportunities for health professionals and patients across BC. As well as helping train medical students,

specialists and other health professionals new to kidney care, the agency coordinates a number of educational events every year. Together with BC Transplant, the BC Renal Agency hosts the annual BC Kidney Days conference, which attracts over 500 renal and kidney transplant care professionals from across BC, Canada and the United States.

Research is focused on the assessment of tools used in caring for renal patients, new strategies for care delivery, and the impact of new therapies. Our PROMIS database is used as a source of important epidemiological data in support of clinical trials and for assessing new therapies.

By the numbers* A year at BC Renal Agency

Increase in kidney patients by treatment mode	2001	2011**	10 year increase
Predialysis clinics/kidney care clinics (including MD offices)	1,692	11,618	587%
Hospital-based hemodialysis	896	1,209	35%
Community centre hemodialysis	412	804	95%
Home-based hemodialysis	14	127	807%
Peritoneal dialysis	482	677	40%

*Statistics are from the provincial renal database (PROMIS) for the 2010/11 fiscal year.



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