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# THE PRESCRIPTION PAD BCPS Update

## Transitioning Patients from Community Pediatricians into Adult Care Project: BCPS Medical Transfer Form

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As pediatric patients reach adolescence, they will transition from pediatric care into adult care. This is a time when it is possible for these patients (and their families) to become disengaged from the health care system. They are vulnerable due to the complexity of their conditions, and may face challenges adjusting to the culture of adult individualistic care after a lifetime of family centered pediatric care.

The BC Pediatric Society is working with Community Pediatricians, Family Physicians and Adult Specialists in a quality improvement project with the goal of supporting this transition process. One of the tools we have developed is the **BCPS Medical Transfer Summary Form**, which features the kinds of information that could be transferred to those involved in the adult care of the patient.

We didn't develop this form out of the blue - we are building on the excellent work done by the ON TRAC program at BC Children's Hospital. So we're "revisers" more than we are inventors! We believe this form - which includes a suggested list of topics for the consult letter - will provide additional support for pediatricians in transferring information to family doctors and specialists during the transfer process. Such forms, build on similar work being done across North America, are used to support pediatricians in transitioning young patients to adult services.

When we took the ON TRAC Medical Transfer Summary and Clinical Pathway forms to physicians throughout B.C., we received pretty consistent feedback. Part of that feedback centred on the form, and part on what other resources are needed for pediatricians transitioning patients. This project will be focusing on both those concerns.

During our consultations with pediatricians, GPs and specialists in Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Penticton, Abbotsford, Comox, Nanaimo, Duncan, Victoria and the Lower Mainland, we heard that a more succinct form customized to the needs and time constraints of Community Pediatricians and Family Physicians was important.

The BC Pediatric Society Medical Transfer Form now includes the most pertinent questions from the ON TRAC Clinical Pathways documents.

We heard that doctors need more up-to-date information to share with their patients and families about additional community resources, and who is eligible for them. We also heard that doctors need information about appropriate medical, social and mental health resources that can be used for referring their transitioning patients and families.

**The feedback we received from pediatricians and family physicians is that the shorter the form the better.**

As part of our work to develop resources to support Community Pediatricians in their work to transition adolescent patients into adult care, we subsequently hosted consultation dinner sessions in October 2016 to seek feedback from physicians as the next step in refining and confirming the contents of the BCPS Medical Transfer Summary Form and the other tools in development.. Sessions were held in the following locations: Penticton; Surrey; Prince George; Vancouver; and Nanaimo. Session participants included Community Pediatricians, Family Physicians and Adult Specialists who share/accept transitioning patient referrals from Community Pediatricians.

A pilot of the form and other BCPS tools under development will be implemented during January – March 2017 and the new Medical Transfer Summary Form will be available for use on the BCPS website by June 2017.

*"Transitioning Patients from Community Pediatricians into Adult Care" is a project supported by the Specialist Services Committee (SSC) a partnership of Doctors of BC and the BC government.*