



Transitioning Patients from Community Pediatricians into Adult Care Project: A Review of the Medical Transfer Summary

Dr. Jana Sidorov, a family physician from Prince George, says BC GPs are going to be “extremely happy” with the new Medical Transfer Summary for patient transfer developed by and for community pediatricians.

Dr. Sidorov has been involved in the development of the new BC Pediatric Society form since the beginning, joining the development committee two years ago after hearing about the project from a colleague. As the GP representative to the Department of Pediatrics at the University Hospital of Northern BC, she recognized the value in being part of the development of a concise summary of young patients being transferred into the adult care system.

“The form is an excellent opportunity to summarize care,” she says. “In my own community, this will improve patient care if it’s filled out.”

The Medical Transfer Summary (now [available online](#) for BC pediatricians) was modeled on a transfer form developed through the ON TRAC program for young patients in the care of BC Children’s Hospital Specialty Clinics as they transitioned into the adult system. The BCPS form was customized through consultations with physicians throughout the province to suit the needs of community pediatricians.

The form will be particularly useful in the new style of medical practice where a group of doctors collaborate to share patients, she adds. A family physician for 40 years in a solo practice, Dr. Sidorov knows each and every one of her own patients extensively, but that’s not always the case in urban centres with different models of care.

“It’s ever so much simpler to have this handy dandy two-pager summarizing a patient, especially the psycho-social aspects,” she says. “It will be a very good tool.”

Family physicians in communities like Prince George are generally aware of the local community resources available for patients and their families. But the more condition-specific information available online through BC Children’s Hospital and ON TRAC is a vital resource that not all physicians know about. “That’s one of the great things about this form. It leads people to go online and find that information,” says Dr. Sidorov.

And while family physicians may be familiar with community resources, they don’t know what resources a new patient has relied on in the past, she adds. The background provided in the transfer summary brings physicians up to date on that front and clarifies what benefits the patient is receiving.

While the transfer form was developed specifically for the use of community pediatricians, Dr. Sidorov anticipates using it herself when making new connections with adult specialists on behalf of her patients. “For me, I will use this with adult specialists as a baseline, plus for access to other services,” she says.

The BC Pediatric Society has been working with community pediatricians, family physicians and adult specialists on a quality improvement project with the goal of supporting the transition process.

The BCPS Medical Transfer Summary (MTS) is one of the tools developed through several consultations with physicians throughout the past year. In spring 2017 the MTS and other resources were piloted in practices of 7 BC community pediatricians, and the family physicians and adult specialists their patients were transferred to.

Dr. Sidorov's conversations about the form with other GPs have been met with "a great deal of interest," as the categories on the form cover off virtually all important information about a patient.

Dr. Sidorov enjoyed working with the BCPS on the development of the Medical Transfer Summary, a process she found to be consultative and collaborative.

"The process has been great. I really felt part of a group working on a very interesting and valuable project that was well-organized and well-run," she says. "The goal of the project was to create this form for community pediatricians, but we don't work in isolation. A two-page form that's simple to use and understandable will be useful for everyone."

"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.