# Professional Resource

### **FACTSHEET: PATHWAYS ONLINE TOOL FOR PHYSICIANS**



#### WHAT IS PATHWAYS?

Pathways is an online tool used by specialists and family physicians to find community resources, and to refer patients to an appropriate specialist. Many Divisions include information in their Pathways database on family physicians accepting new patients. Using a secure, password-protected website, physicians can quickly access current and accurate community service and referral information, including wait times and areas of practice for specialists, clinics, and health services across British Columbia.



#### WHO IS PATHWAYS FOR?

Pathways was created for physicians and their office staff to enhance and improve the process of referring patients to specialists and clinics. Pathways access is provided to physicians through local Divisions of Family Practice. Once a Division has implemented Pathways, this resource is then made available free of charge to the members of that Division.

# Pathways at a Glance

- 4,700 specialists
- ▶ 1,100+ clinics and health services
- ▶ 1,400 referral forms
- 2,200 physician-approved resources
- and other community services

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PATHWAYS?

There are two main benefits for pediatricians:

- Pathways facilitates quality referrals by providing a comprehensive database of specialists and clinics across the province, allowing referring physicians to quickly sort through and filter specialist and clinic information to find a provider that best meets a patient's needs. So, for example, if you're looking for an appropriate psychiatrist for your patient, you can check out Pathways. Filterable categories include wait times, specific areas of practice and procedures offered, geographic location, gender, telehealth options, and languages spoken. AND Specialist and clinic profiles are **regularly updated and validated** by dedicated Pathways administrators or by the specialists themselves, so you can be assured that the information is accurate.
- Pathways has a listing of community services (including mental health services), that is searchable. This information is also **regularly updated and validated** by dedicated Pathways administrators.
- Many Divisions include information on family physicians accepting new patients in their Pathways database.

The information in this document is drawn from a variety of sources and was accurate at the time of publication. BCPS acknowledges that this information may be subject to change.

## IS PATHWAYS AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES?

Pathways continues to grow and expand. There are currently 34 Divisions actively using Pathways, representing 95% of Division members across British Columbia. Full provincial implementation is scheduled to be complete in 2019. Pathways users can find information for more than 4,700 specialists and over 1,100 clinics and health services. There are also:

- more than 1,400 referral forms
- over 2,200 physician-approved resources, including clinical tools and guidelines, patient information, and information on allied health professionals
- and other community services so if you're looking for a community mental health service, this is a great resource!

# Coming Soon!

#### PATHWAYS REFERRAL TRACKER

The new Pathways Referral Tracker will allow physicians and their staff to send and track referrals electronically as well! Features include:

- A collaborative dashboard where both GPs & SPs can track referral status (i.e. received, wait listed or booked).
- Sending referral letters and documentation to SPs electronically (arrives in EMR inbox).
- Secure messaging between GP and specialist offices.
- Automated electronic patient notifications sent by email or text, including patient instructions.

#### **HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?**

- ▶ To learn more about Pathways, please *click here* to find your local Division of Family Practice.
- ▶ You can also contact the Provincial Pathways team by emailing administration@pathways.ca

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