

January 17, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

In the context of the illicit opioid overdose epidemic, we are writing to make you aware of a number of resources to improve access to opioid agonist therapy for clients with opiate use disorder across Vancouver.

First, St Paul's Hospital has recently opened a Rapid Access Addiction Clinic (RAAC) that is able to see patients soon after referral (often the same day). Second, the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) that has been temporarily deployed in the downtown eastside is also able to take walk in clients for Suboxone and methadone inductions and can facilitate referrals to both the RAAC at St Paul's Hospital and Vancouver Detox.

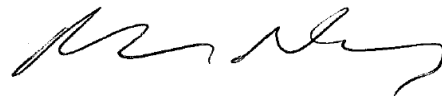
Vancouver Coastal Health is also very close to opening the new "Downtown Eastside Connections" program, which will be able to offer 7 day per week opiate use disorder treatment, but in the interim is operating five days per week out of the Downtown Community Health Centre (DCHC). Vancouver Coastal Health Primary Care Clinics at Raven Song Community Health Centre, Three Bridges Community Health Centre, and Pender Community Health Centre are also able to assess and support mandated clients with full primary care and opioid agonist therapy, and all have stock of Suboxone on site.

The Portland Hotel Society Clinic is accepting new patients for full primary care and addiction care including methadone, Suboxone and alcohol relapse prevention. Finally, as you may be aware the Vancouver Coastal Health START Program is also available to support home inductions onto Suboxone for those that are adequately housed in Vancouver and for whom this may be a reasonable option. Details of how to access these services are listed on the next few pages.

Sincerely,



Evan Wood
Medical Director, Community Addiction Services
Vancouver Coastal Health



Mike Norbury
Medical Director, Primary Care
Vancouver Coastal Health

Opioid Agonist Therapy Options – January 2017

- The Rapid Access Addiction Clinic (RAAC) is located on the 2nd floor of the Burrard Building at St Paul's Hospital and is staffed by an interdisciplinary addiction care team. To make an appointment, phone 604-806-8867, weekdays 8:30am to 4:30pm.
- The Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) is temporarily located at 58 West Hastings and is staffed with an addiction physician from 9 am to 9pm, 7 days per week. If you would like to speak to a member of MMU staff, please call 604-681-5240. The MMU addiction medicine staff are able to start opioid agonist therapy on site or refer to Vancouver Detox or other resources if necessary so as to allow for opioid agonist therapy induction. Every attempt is made to connect patients to ongoing primary care, if they do not have a family doctor. This service may not be deployed beyond March 2017, so please call before referring a patient.
- Vancouver Coastal Health's Substance use Treatment and Response Team (START) provides rapid access to at-home detox in Vancouver and can undertake Suboxone inductions. You can contacting START directly by calling 604-675-2455, or email: start.team@vch.ca. Referrals can be made through the following channels:
 - Access and Assessment Centre (AAC) is the single point of access for Mental Health and/or Substance Use services for residents aged 17+ in Vancouver and offer an alternative to the Emergency department for people having a non-life threatening Mental Health and/or Substance Use issue. The clinical staff of the AAC offer short term 24/7 support by telephone and by mobile response for stabilization and crisis management. You can contact ACC by calling 604-875-8289.
 - Access Central is a screening and referral telephone line that provides both youth and adults access to withdrawal management services and addiction housing. People who require detoxification receive immediate screening by health care workers, who set up appointment times with the provider that most suits a client's needs. Also provides housing information, screening, referral, and placement services for adults and youth who are dealing with addiction issues and/or who are in early stages of recovery. Serves Lions Bay, North Vancouver, Pemberton, Richmond, Squamish, Vancouver, West Vancouver, Whistler, as well as Powell River, and Sunshine Coast communities. To reach Access Central, please call 1-866-658-1221. Hours are 9 am to 7:45 pm, seven days a week; voicemail messages are answered the following morning.
 - The Central Addictions Intake Team (CAIT) assists Clients and Community Counsellors who have started referrals to one of the VCH funded sites (CCL, New Dawn, TWC, Pacifica). To ensure the best continuity and quality of care, clients are encouraged to first connect with a community counsellor to complete the referral. Once this process is started the client can connect with CAIT for any additional support or assistance. Counsellors are encouraged to contact CAIT at 604-263-7377 prior to starting their referral to obtain the most current referral packages for each site.

- Downtown Eastside Connections will be opening at 623 Powell Street in the next 6 weeks, but is currently offering opioid agonist treatment (methadone & buprenorphine) through DCHC at 569 Powell Street, Monday-Friday. Patients who live in the DTES can walk-in Mon, Wed & Fri between 1-4pm, Tues & Thurs between 11am-2pm, or the program can be contacted through the main DCHC clinic number at 604-255-3151 or directly at Connections, 604-216-4279. DCHC is otherwise open 7 days per week 8:30am to 5pm, with women's only night from 5-8pm on Tuesdays.
- PHS Health Care Clinic is located at 412 East Cordova Street and is open Monday to Friday 9am – 4:30pm. This clinic provides full primary care as well as addiction treatment. The clinic offers same day Methadone and Suboxone starts as well as a managed alcohol program. The clinic phone number is 604-879-7906, and walk-ins are welcome.
- Pender Primary Care Clinic is located at 59 West Pender Street and clients seeking assessment for methadone and suboxone starts should drop in, Mon-Fri 10:30am-12:30pm. The clinical co-ordinator can be contacted at 604-992-5277 to arrange alternatives to using the drop in times. The clinic is otherwise open Monday to Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, with women's only night from 5-7pm on Thursdays. The main clinic number is 604-669-9181.
- Raven Song Primary Care Clinic is located at 2450 Ontario Street and clients seeking assessment for methadone and suboxone starts should drop in, 7 days per week, between 1-3pm. The clinical co-ordinator can be contacted at 604-709-6401 to arrange alternatives to using the drop in times. The clinic is otherwise open 8:30am-8:30pm Monday to Friday and 10am-6pm on weekends and stat holidays. The main clinic number is 604-872-7984.
- Three Bridges Primary Care Clinic is located at 1292 Hornby Street and clients seeking assessment for methadone and suboxone starts should drop in, 7 days per week, between 1-3pm. The clinical co-ordinator can be contacted at 604-633-4208 to arrange alternatives to using the drop in times. The clinic is otherwise open 8:30am-8pm Monday to Friday and 10am-5pm on weekends and stat holidays. The main clinic number is 604-736-9844.
- The medical clinic at Sheway is located at 533 E Hastings Street and operates a drop-in service between 11:30am-3:30pm weekdays for clients of Sheway. Sheway sees women who are pregnant, or up to 18 months post-partum (sometimes beyond) and their children, who live in Vancouver and who have a current or recent history of substance and/or alcohol problems. The clinical co-ordinator can be contacted at 604-365-8996, but prospective clients can drop-in during the above hours.
- For practitioners looking for immediate assistance with a patient with substance use related issues, please contact the Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise ([RACE](#)) line to speak with an addiction medicine specialist if any questions or concerns. The RACE line can be reached through the RACEApp+ (preferred), or by phone at Vancouver Area: 604-696-2131, Toll Free: 1-877-696-2131. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, www.raceconnect.ca