



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
October 21, 2013

Provincial Health Services Authority

BC Children's Hospital to Launch New Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Program

Vancouver– BC children who need a life-saving heart transplant will soon be able to receive the procedure at BC Children's Hospital.

Now that a review of a comprehensive business plan is complete, BC Children's has received approval from the Provincial Health Services Authority to establish the program. The new Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Program is expected to provide on average, up to three transplants on an annual basis.

Until now, the majority of children requiring a heart transplant and/or ventricular assist device (VAD) therapy needed to travel out-of-province to either Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton, or on rare occasions to The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. This new program will enable BC families to access this very specialized service closer to home.

The new program will operate as one of two transplant sites within the Western Canadian Children's Heart Network; a network of children's hospital and health centres from Manitoba through to B.C. that collaborate to provide access to pediatric cardiac care and surgery.

The current BC Children's Hospital Heart Centre is already a highly regarded program. It offers specialized pediatric cardiology services, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery to BC children and adolescents with congenital heart disease and other acquired cardiac illnesses. The program is recognized nationally and internationally for its clinical expertise and patient outcomes and the addition of a dedicated heart transplant program will build on this success.

Since 2010, BC Children's Hospital has added new medical personnel, introduced a number of innovative practice changes, and made financial investments that are continuously improving an already strong cardiac surgery program.

Quotes:

Terry Lake, Minister of Health

“The development of a pediatric cardiac transplant and VAD program in Vancouver ensures BC Children’s Hospital offers a full spectrum of pediatric cardiac surgical services. With this commitment we are now increasing access to transplant services for BC parents and families closer to home, and building on the academic role of the hospital.”

Larry Gold, President, BC Children’s Hospital

“We are committed to delivering world-class, high quality care to the children of our province. The new Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Program will provide children requiring a heart transplant and their families with an option of receiving this highly specialized procedure in their own province.”

BC Children’s Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides expert care for the province’s most seriously ill or injured children, including newborns and adolescents. BC Children’s Hospital is an academic health centre affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the Child & Family Research Institute.

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, visit www.phsa.ca.

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