

# New Indigenous self identification process at BC Children's and Women's hospitals

BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre now asks patients during registration if they would like to self-identify as Indigenous. Answers are voluntary, private, and confidential. We hope to improve patient access to culturally relevant resources and supports.

## Why are staff asking this?

- We now ask if you wish to identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit). This is a part of every patient registration with our new electronic patient record system.
- Staff will ask all patients. Staff will not assume who is Indigenous or non-Indigenous. If you have Indigenous ancestry, you may self-identify. This is based on how you define your identity. You do not need proof.
- You can choose not to answer. Your answer will not affect the care you receive.

## What happens if I say yes?

- Staff will add your answer to your electronic health record. We will not ask again. You can change your answer any time.
- Staff will also offer to connect you to the Indigenous Health Program. This program offers culturally relevant resources and supports to patients and families, including:
  - Support and comfort,
  - Connection to an Elder,
  - Information about the First Nations Health Benefits Program,
  - In-person support at medical appointments on site, and
  - Emergency clothing, if required.

## How will the hospital use my answer?

- Staff will add this information to your electronic health record.
- When staff know if a patient is Indigenous, they can give more culturally safe care. Staff can also help Indigenous patients and families include spiritual care and traditional healing practices as a part of care, if the patient chooses.
- Self-identification also helps us find ways to learn about the health needs of Indigenous peoples, and to improve health care services.

## Do I have to answer?

- No. You can choose not to answer. You have the right to self-identify in a way that makes you comfortable. You can change your answer at any time.

BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre are committed to providing patient-centred, culturally safe health care and support services. Learn more about our Indigenous Health Program at <http://www.bcwomens.ca/our-services/indigenous-health>. Or, ask a staff member.