10th anniversary congratulations to the Pediatric Oncology Hematology Network

The fact that children with cancer in BC have a better chance of living a longer life than ever before is a credit in part to the Pediatric Oncology Hematology Network (POHN). On behalf of the BC Cancer Agency I congratulate the POHN for their achievements over the last 10 years. The BC Cancer Agency’s provincial oncology networks are critical to ensuring that consistent standards of care and treatment are provided to cancer patients as close to home as possible, as well as that prevention, detection and treatment continue to improve. I commend your dedication to improving cancer care and look forward to the POHN’s continued advancements for our smallest patients.

*Dr. Max Coppes, President, BC Cancer Agency*

Congratulations to the Pediatric Oncology Hematology Network as you celebrate your 10th anniversary this year. Much has changed in the ten years since your network was developed. There are clearly new diagnostic tests, and treatment and management strategies for pediatric oncologic and hematologic conditions. Advances in family-centred care and involvement of children, youth and their families in their care and ongoing support of their condition have improved outcomes. Survival statistics have dramatically improved.

Such successes in the field of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology have demonstrated the strong commitment of the subspecialists from across the disciplines in the field and the work of integrated multi-site research. However, in addition, the provincial landscape has also changed and your team has been substantial contributors to those changes.

Through your goal “to support community hospitals and practitioners and develop a partnership with other health facilities to enable integrated care of patients and their families throughout the province” you demonstrated a desire to take high quality care at BC Children’s Hospital and support others in delivering that similar standard throughout the province of British Columbia where ever possible. You have achieved that by linking with providers, by training providers and through knowledge translation of new and updated protocols and practices.

*Child Health BC (CHBC) has been in existence since 2005. Our network brings together providers from the child-serving ministries, the health authorities, the BC Pediatric Society, the BCMA, UBC, and other key pediatric partners. Child Health BC’s work has been anchored in the development of “tiers of service” in which we describe the responsibilities and resources across the tiers required to build an integrated system of care to safely meet the needs of children and provide them with the services they need. CHBC has been pleased to work with you and build on your already completed provincial planning to create the “tiers of service” for pediatric oncology. We thank you for your efforts and for all we learned from you in the process.*

*Having completed the Tiers of Service module for pediatric oncology, together we are now moving forward with using the module to complete more systematic service planning for the province of BC. The leadership and engagement of your network is critical to the success of this ongoing work and we greatly value your partnership. Through your network’s work, you have systematically supported populations of children with oncologic and hematologic conditions. In addition, you have built strong partnerships with individual providers that have allowed you to advocate on behalf of groups of children, as well as on behalf of individual children and their families. This is clearly a tremendous strength of your network.*

*Congratulations on all you have achieved in the past ten years. We look forward to an ongoing collaboration in the years to come.*

*Dr. Maureen O’Donnell, Executive Director, Child Health BC*
POHN celebrates 10 years

Introduction
The BC Provincial Pediatric Oncology/Hematology Network (POHN) was established in September 2002 as a joint initiative of BC Children’s Hospital (BCCH) and the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA). The proposal was submitted to the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) in 2003 and approved. The POHN is a working group of Child Health BC The Network has a steering committee with regional representation and is supported by a medical director (0.5FTE) a network co-coordinator (0.5FTE) and an administrative assistant (0.5FTE).

Mission
Its mission is to ensure all children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer or blood disorders in British Columbia (BC) have access to state of the art comprehensive interdisciplinary clinical and follow up care.

Its role is to identify the unique issues associated with the management of children and adolescents with cancer and blood disorders in BC and recommend solutions. In order to achieve this, the Network oversees the provision of a clinical service, education and research programme deployed within a tertiary and community framework. In addition the Network has implemented a strategy addressing pediatric cancer control integrated with the pediatric programme at BCCH and within the infrastructure, platforms and programmes of the BCCA’s regional implementation of cancer control.

At its inception five working groups were established: Education and Communication; Long term follow up; Pediatric Palliative Care; Psychosocial; and Research.

Achievements of Working Groups
Education and communication working group
- Established a web site (www.kidscancer.bc.ca)
- Initiated a semiannual newsletter (this is issue #19)
- Participated in the BCCA annual conferences, biennial conferences: Vancouver Island Oncology Conference (VIONC) and Realities of Northern Oncology conference (RONOC)
- Established Tiers of service (community based levels of care and chemotherapy administration) which formed the background for the Children’s Cancer Services module within Child Health BC
- Provided nursing training workshops in pediatric oncology: chemotherapy administration and competency as well as a two day chemotherapy administration practicum.
- Presented talks on pediatric oncology and survivorship issues at the 2012 annual meeting of the BC Nurse Practitioners Association
- Provided regional continuing medical education (CME) courses and conducted regional communication meetings. (Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Victoria, Nanaimo, Comox) for pediatricians, nurses and allied health care professionals
- Developed and participated in the pediatric oncology component for the General Practitioners in Oncology (GPO) training program offered by the Family Practitioner Network www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/FPON/default.htm

Long term follow up working group
- Identified the need for a formalized and funded prospective adult transition and surveillance programme for survivors of childhood cancer.
- Developed a sustainable model for transition and adult follow up within the confines of current fiscal restraint based on a categorization of risk factors for existing and future adverse health events.
- Identified the need to inform former patients of potential increased health risks and proposed possible methods and funding requirements.
- Implemented educational sessions for survivors transitioning to adult follow up utilizing a nurse clinician.
- Held the first community based long term follow up clinic in Prince George in 2013.
- Developed a collaborative association with the Nurse Practitioners programme for patients without a family physician.
- Developed a data base on patients transitioned to adult care with ongoing feed back from patient and family physician

Pediatric oncology palliative care working group (tasks completed 2006)
- Developed norms/guidelines of practice for pediatric oncology palliative care and a pediatric palliative care checklist
- Integrated the programme with Canuck Place and facilitated the comprehensive programme for BC www.bcchildrens.ca/Professionals/PalliativeCare/BereavementCare.htm www.canuckplace.org/

Psychosocial care working group
- Collaborated with the BC Childhood Cancer Parents Association (BCCCPA) (www.bcccpa.org) and the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) to identify and address psychosocial needs and integrate services.
- Compiled a list of community psychosocial resources and services
- Conducted a needs assessment of patients and families living in rural and urban communities and working with Child Health BC to fill identified gaps in support services.
- Provided specific support groups viz: Oncology Teen Group, Siblings coping together, annual “Remembering the Children” ceremony.

Research working group
- Collaborated with the Childhood Cancer & Blood Research Cluster to facilitate community involvement and provided
The Pediatric Oncology Hematology Network (POHN) has a formally established partnership since 2002 with local community pediatric services to set up pediatric oncology clinics at each of the Health authorities throughout British Columbia. For the past 10 years, the POHN has continued to support community hospitals and practitioners and developed partnerships with health care facilities to enable seamless and integrated care for patients on treatment and off treatment and their families. The pediatric oncology services, under the direction of the pediatric oncology team at BC Children’s Hospital (BCCH), are provided at the following locations:

Fraser Health Authority
Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH), Surrey

Island Health Authority
Victoria General Hospital, Victoria
Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, Nanaimo

Nanaimo
Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, Nanaimo

Northern Health Authority
University Hospital of Northern BC, Prince George

Primavera's Surgery
Primavera's Surgery

Interior Health Authority
Kelowna General Hospital, Kelowna
Royal Island Hospital, Kamloops
Penticton Regional Hospital, Penticton
Vernon Jubilee Hospital, Vernon

In Vernon, the pediatric oncology patients are followed by the Vernon pediatric team under the direction of pediatric oncologists at BCCH and the chemotherapy is given by the chemo certified adult nurses from the Satellite clinic of BC Cancer Agency in Vernon Hospital.

The POHN has worked closely with the Community Oncology Network at the BC Cancer Agency to provide tier one chemotherapy to pediatric patients in communities where there are no pediatric chemo trained nurses. In 2009, the nurse clinician roles were implemented at the Oncology Hematology BMT program at BCCH to facilitate and streamline communication with community partners. There are 5 oncology nurse clinicians and 3 hematology nurse clinicians who act as clinical resource coordinators in providing consistent inter disciplinary family centered care within BCCH and community partners around the province.

Many thanks to health care professionals, support staff, hospitals and clinics around the province for providing excellent care to patients and their families.

Following are examples of 3 pediatric oncology clinics around the province.

Paulina Chen, Coordinator of POHN
Community pediatric oncology clinics in British Columbia

Surrey Memorial Hospital

The Pediatric Oncology program located at Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) is headed by Dr. Prevost (pediatric oncologist) who came from BC Children’s Hospital (BCCH) in 2001. Dr. Reysner (pediatric oncologist/palliative care specialist) joined the program in 2004.

The program started with 1 patient receiving chemotherapy and supportive care. Through the years, the program has grown and currently there are 15 active patients and 88 long term follow up patients.

Working in conjunction with the Pediatric Oncology Team at BCCH, we provide chemotherapy administration and supportive care to patients living in the Fraser Health Authority.

To date, we have 31 central line trained nurses and 19 chemotherapy trained nurses. Of the 19 chemotherapy trained nurses, 7 are APHON chemo/biotherapy certified (Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses) and 1 is CPHON certified (Certified Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses).

We provide various outpatient chemotherapy and some inpatient chemotherapy such as Ifosfamide, Etoposide, Cyclophosphamide, Carboplatin, Cisplatin. The program is in the process of preparing for Intermediate Dose Methotrexate administration/admission.

We also provide supportive care such as: fever/neutropenia (F&N) care; blood product transfusions; insuflon and NGT insertions/care/teaching.

When an oncology patient is admitted with F&N, the patient bypasses Emergency department goes directly to the inpatient unit. We have a grab and go “F&N kit” which contains pre-printed orders, all the central line accessing supplies, bloodwork supplies and antibiotics.

The program consists of 2 part time pediatric oncologists, 1 pediatric oncology nurse clinician, a social worker, psychologist, dietician, child life specialist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech language pathologist, and pharmacist. Multidisciplinary rounds are held once a month to discuss patients on active treatment and follow up care. Drs Prevost and Reysner also attend the Monday afternoon patient rounds at BCCH regularly for continuity of patient care.

Our psychosocial team has organized a number of groups for patients, siblings and families. The program puts together a yearly Memorial Day Tea for families who have lost children to cancer. It is a day for families to reconnect and share memories.

We are also fortunate to have a pediatric palliative care program. This specialized care includes: pain control; symptom management and end of life care.

We continue to grow and strive to provide the best and safest care to the patients we serve.

Lani Lardizabal,
Surrey Memorial Hospital
Oncology Clinic, Pediatric Nurse Clinician

Victoria General Hospital

Looking back to 2003, our pediatric oncology families were followed by a small group of pediatricians in the Greater Victoria area. The children were seen in a treatment room with one stretcher space. Any treatment that took longer than an hour entailed the children being admitted to the inpatient floor or the daycare surgery area for the duration, with the nurse clinicians overseeing nursing care. There were three nurse clinicians who followed the children as primary nurses, but who also had shared clinical responsibilities in other areas. Oncologists from BC Children’s Hospital (BCCH) came over to see the children who had completed treatment in the follow up clinics 9 times per year. Over the course of a year, approximately 500 clinic visits would occur, either on the inpatient ward or in the outpatient area.

Over time, it became apparent that our families needed more specialized and cohesive care. One of our pediatricians, Dr Frank Jagdis stepped forward to oversee the oncologic primary care of children on active treatment in the greater Victoria area in collaboration with pediatric oncologists at BCCH. Oncologists from BCCH continued their visits to Victoria in seeing children in long term follow up clinics. In 2007, the responsibilities of the nurse clinicians...
University Hospital of Northern BC

In Prince George, paediatric oncology services are provided in the University Hospital of Northern BC’s (UHNBC) Paediatric Ambulatory Care Clinic which opened with the new inpatient Paediatric wing in November of 2006. We have two bright and child friendly treatment rooms where our patients receive their chemotherapy treatment. We service paediatric patients who reside in the Northern Interior health service delivery area.

Currently we have four paediatric nurses who are chemotherapy competent: Kristine Browncombe, Sheri MacDonald, Raandi Nesbitt and Beverly Haight. Our clinic nurse Raandi is responsible for the coordination of oncology services with assistance from Jennifer Begg, Paediatric Nurse Navigator. They ensure that the families and health care team are well coordinated and that our service offers full coverage throughout the week. Sheri is our Clinical Nurse Educator and acts as a resources and support for our oncology services during the week. Kristine and Bev are RNs on the inpatient ward that aid to bridge any gaps in our coverage. Raandi is responsible for maintaining contact with the nurse clinicians at BC Children’s Hospital to ensure that we continue to provide coordinated seamless care to the children and families we serve. All nurses involved in the program currently attend the Provincial Paediatric Oncology/Haematology Network Steering Committee Meetings.

Dr. Simon Earl is the medical director of oncology services. All six of our paediatricians are responsible for providing care when these patients present in our clinic. Our clinical pharmacist Alicia Ridgewell plays an important role in our chemotherapy service by ensuring that the roadmaps are correctly interpreted and followed in collaboration with the physicians and nurses. Our team also includes Sandra Wyatt, Child Life Specialist, and Kim Foster, Paediatric Physiotherapist, who help to provide a more comprehensive service for our patients. Jalwinder Bhullar provides all clerical support to our program.

In addition we now boast the UHNBC Maternal Child Family Place located on the Paediatric Wing where patients and their family members from out of town can stay while receiving treatment.

Jennifer Begg, University Hospital of Northern BC Paediatric Nurse Navigator

POHN NEWSLETTER / WINTER 2013
Announcements


The website www.kidscancer.bc.ca has been reformatted. The web address remains the same. Please send any feedback and comments to Paulina Chen ppchen@cw.bc.ca

Pediatric Oncology Workshop for pediatric nurses, April 7-9, 2014
This workshop will be held once a year for nurses on the nursing resource team (NRT) @ BCCH and provincial pediatric nurses who would like to learn about oncology and to be competent in administering chemo/biotherapy. Please contact Paulina Chen (ppchen@cw.bc.ca) for more information.

Save the Date: Pediatric Oncology Conference, evening of May 8 and all day May 9, 2014 at BC Children’s Hospital, Chan Centre for Family Health Education, Vancouver, BC. More information to follow and on the website (www.kidscancer.bc.ca)

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

THE PROVINCIAL PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY NETWORK

The Network is an interdisciplinary organization whose goal is to ensure appropriate diagnosis, management, follow-up, and end-of-life care for pediatric patients with malignancies and blood disorders.

The Network supports community hospitals and practitioners, and develops partnerships with other healthcare facilities to enable seamless and integrated care for patients and families on treatment and off treatment.

It will further develop and enhance the research programs of basic, translational, and clinical research to better childhood cancer control and improve outcomes for these patients and their families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Our mission is to improve the health and welfare of children in BC with cancer and blood disorders through research, education, and care.