

## About Sunny Hill

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children is a provincial facility offering specialized services to children with disabilities, their families and communities throughout British Columbia. Using a family-centred approach, Sunny Hill helps promote the healthy development of children and youth by supporting families and community service providers in their efforts. It is also a resource for educational services and information about disabilities. Services are delivered close to home in a child's community, or on site at Sunny Hill, located in Vancouver.

## How To Contact Us

### **Sunny Hill Health Centre For Children**

Positioning and Mobility Team Leader

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[www.bcchildrens.ca/sunnyhill](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/sunnyhill)

[www.seatingandmobility.ca](http://www.seatingandmobility.ca)

*Promoting Better Health for Children with Disabilities  
through Clinical Services, Education and Research*



an agency of the Provincial  
Health Services Authority

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## About The Positioning And Mobility Team

The Positioning and Mobility team provides positioning and mobility services to meet the needs of British Columbia's children and youth (0-19 years) with neuromotor disabilities.

The team performs assessments, provides equipment and follow-up services, and conducts educational, research and development activities. Clinical and technical services are available at Sunny Hill, and in the children's home communities.

**Sunny Hill Health Centre** is committed to ensuring that your child's transition from child to adult positioning and mobility services is smooth and efficient. This booklet provides useful information to families whose children are nearing the time when they will make the transition from child-centred to adult-oriented positioning and mobility services.



## What Are The Goals Of Transition?

We will work with you and your child to ensure that:

- There are no gaps in service as your child matures into a young adult;
- All vital information is transferred from child services to adult health care providers;
- You and your child will receive all the help and guidance you need at every step along the transition process.

## What You Will Find In This Booklet

- A timeline of key milestones in the transition process.
- The process of equipment funding when youth become adults.
- A list of community agencies that provide positioning and mobility services for adults.
- A list of useful websites related to transition to adult services.

## The Transition Timeline

The following timeline is designed to show you exactly what service transition events occur as your child matures into adulthood.

### Age 17

- The transition process begins.
- Your child applies for a social insurance number. Your child will need at least 1 of the following: Care Card, Canadian birth certificate, BCID or certificate of citizenship.
- All current equipment should be thoroughly reviewed.
- At age 17 <sup>1/2</sup> parents need to begin the application process for Disability Assistance. This involves applying for a Persons With Disability (PWD) designation through Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD). You should receive a letter from the At Home Program (AHP) that gives details and steps on how to apply for Disability Assistance. The PWD form is long, [ASK](#) for an “At Home Medical Benefits Program Transition Consent” to reduce your work when filling out the application. This allows the At Home Program to share medical information to facilitate this application.



### Age 18

- Your child will begin receiving Disability Assistance if your child meets the eligibility criteria.
- Funding for your child's equipment now occurs through an Employment Assistance Worker (EAW).
- Your pediatric community therapist is responsible for providing you with information to access adult services to meet your child's equipment needs.
- Your child's Sunny Hill therapist will write a discharge summary containing a brief medical history, and information about the seating systems, wheelchairs or other positioning equipment your child uses.
- The AHP funding for equipment ends on the last day of the month of their 18th birthday. The AHP funding for equipment for children in Ministry care ends at the child's 19th birthday.

### Age 19

- Your child is formally discharged from Sunny Hill.

## The Process Of Funding For Equipment After 18 Years

When your child turns 18 (or 19 for children in care), funding for equipment will change. Your child will no longer receive funding through governmental children's services such as the At Home Program, but instead will receive funding through adult services.

You must remember that **this funding change does not happen automatically**. You and your child need to apply for new funding. If you do not do this before your child turns 18, then there may be a delay in the funding you need for equipment, medical supplies or other health services.

The adult benefits program is called Disability Assistance and is within the Ministry of Housing & Social Development (MHSD). To access government funds for equipment after your child's 18th birthday, you need to do the following:

- Apply for Persons with Disability and be eligible.
- Apply for Disability Assistance and be approved. The amount of income is based on "income testing" of the child's income.
- For equipment under \$500, your therapist can submit a letter of justification and quotes to the Employment Assistance Worker (EAW) at your local office.
- For equipment over \$500, the Medical Equipment Request & Justification Form (ASD2138) obtained from a local MHSD office must be completely filled out including:
  - Section I filled out by EAW and signed;
  - Client signatures in 3 places;
  - Section II filled out by a physician (or prescription attached) and signed;
  - Section III filled out by a therapist (report and quotes attached) and signed;
  - After all sections are filled out and the form is signed, you then drop it off at the EAW office.

- Keep a copy for your records.
- Questions about status of equipment can be directed to 1-250-387-5664.
- You will receive a copy of approval for your equipment in the mail.

Funding for equipment for adults through Disability Assistance is almost the same as what is provided for children on the AHP program.

Most children seen at Sunny Hill will qualify for Disability Assistance, but there are a few exceptions:

- Children who have received an ICBC settlement
- Children who have won a medical malpractice settlement
- Children who have received a WCB settlement

In these cases, requests for equipment made after the child turns 18 will continue to be sent to the public trustee who manages the child's trust fund.

- Children who are 1st Nations may have different sources of funding for



## Community Agencies That Provide Positioning And Mobility Services For Adults

Your youth's community therapist is responsible for providing you with information on the adult service provider. Adult services can be accessed through the following community agencies:

### 1. Continuing Care

- Continuing Care sees clients who are 19 years of age or older, with an IQ of greater than 70.
- Continuing Care therapists provide seating and mobility services themselves, or in some areas of BC they may refer clients to Access Community Therapists.

### 2. Health Services for Community Living (HSCL)

In some areas, HSCL is located in the Continuing Care office. In other areas, it is in the Community Health Centre office. The location of both of these offices in your region can be found in the Blue Pages of your phone book.

- HSCL sees clients who are 19 years or older, have a developmental disability and an IQ of 70 or below.
- A number of HSCL therapists provide services themselves, or they may refer requests for more complex seating and mobility equipment to Access Community Therapists.

### 3. G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre

4255 Laurel Street  
Vancouver, BC V6R 2R2

Telephone: (604) 737-6291

- G.F. Strong requires a doctor's referral for each consult for clients who want to be seen in their seating clinic.
- Clients must be adolescent or older, and have a physical or neurological disability.

### 4. Access Community Therapists (ACCESS)

1534 Rand Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6P 3G2

Telephone: (604) 736-7009  
info@accesstherapists.com

- ACCESS has a province-wide contract to provide services for clients who are followed by Health Services for Community Living (HSCL). It has a limited contract in the Fraser Health Authority for clients followed by Continuing Care. You'll need a referral to ACCESS from an HSCL therapist or nurse, or a Continuing Care therapist or nurse.
- ACCESS will also see clients on a private fee-for-service basis. If a client has a trust fund (through ICBC, WCB or a medical malpractice settlement) they can contact ACCESS directly to set up a contract.

## Useful Websites Related To Transition To Adult Services

Find using Google - Type in the bold headings

### Identification and Financial Information

- **Ministry of Housing and Social Development** (person with disability designation, income assistance, disability assistance)
- **Service Canada** (Social Insurance Number, passport and citizenship documents)
- **Vital Statistics Agency of BC** (birth registration)
- **ICBC: Driver licensing** (for BCID card - looks like a driver's licence but is not. Provides proof of age, appropriate for youth or young adults to carry in a wallet)

### Health Services Information

- Your Health Authority such as: **Vancouver Coastal Health or Fraser Health** (continuing care and/or community care services)
- **Access Community Therapists**
- **GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre**

### First Nations Funding for Equipment

Potential sources of funding include:

- Your band
- **Health Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits**
- **Nisga'a Valley Health Authority**

### Organizations that Provide Advocacy, Information and Programs

- **BC Brain Injury Association**
- **Bridges to the Future** (program providing transition services to youth in BC, partners include muscular dystrophy, spina bifida and hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy and BC paraplegic associations)
- **BC Coalition for People with Disabilities**
- **BC Association for Community Living**

