

Learning Health Systems Pillar

Social, Community & Equity

Key Pillar Components

- Multi-partner, cross-sectoral networks
- Learning communities
- Service and partnership agreements
- Patient and public engagement
- Peer empowerment
- Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)
- Representation

A Learning Community in LTC

A long-term care Learning Community was established for (LC-LTC) at Vancouver Coastal in 2021, comprising of the professional practice team, directors of care, managers, medical leaders, quality improvement and data analytics experts. This Regional team meets biweekly to discuss barriers and facilitators to new and ongoing initiatives that align with the local and regional priorities. The LC-LTC also engages in research and quality improvement initiatives in partnership with patients, families, researchers and trainees.

Create a safe environment for people with lived and living experiences to contribute to the quality improvement work.

Learning Health Systems Pillar

Legal & Ethical

Key Pillar Components

- Privacy legislation
- Laws for health care organizations/professionals
- Other laws/regulations relevant to LHS activities
- Ethics expertise
- Ethics review boards and committees
- Ethics guidelines, frameworks, and rules

Informed Consent in an LHS

The VCH privacy, LHS, and research administration teams are exploring ways to improve the informed consent process to facilitate research that informs routine practice to move forward more easily. Processes such as meta-consent exist for LHS elsewhere. However, local administrative and operational considerations have to come into play in creating a sustainable process that removes barriers to research and protects privacy and confidentiality for research participants at the same time.



We need Indigenous representation on research ethics boards.

Learning Health Systems Pillar

Science & Research

Key Pillar Components

- Scientific expertise
- Research institutes, centres, or groups
- Research-training programmes
- Knowledge sharing, mobilization, implementation
- Interdisciplinary partnership and collaboration
- Research funding resources
- Research administration

The Covid-19 Therapeutics Committee

A team of 40+ physicians, pharmacists and researchers convened in March 2020 to critically assess the emerging scientific literature on potential Covid-19 therapies. The group met weekly to discuss clinical trials and their conclusions informed a continuously updated infographic on the BCCDC website and was distributed to physicians across the province to support patient care. The group continues to this day to provide evidence synthesis to inform Covid-19 care.*

[We need] a better way to connect the research group with health authorities ... planning research questions together.

Learning Health Systems Pillar

Data & Technology

Key Pillar Components

- Data science, information technology expertise
- Health technologies and devices
- Data systems and infrastructures
- Communication platforms
- Digital applications
- Data warehouses
- Data access
- Interoperability frameworks

Post-Covid-19 Clinical Care Network

The Post-Covid-19 Interdisciplinary Clinical Care Network (PC-ICCN), established in 2020, offers care for patients, education for clinicians and research for long Covid. The PC-ICCN leverages a central Patient Records and Outcome Management Information System (PROMIS) database used by the BC Provincial Renal Agency to serve as the electronic health record system, data repository, and patient registry. Data from PC-ICCN are used to examine patient symptom patterns, identify biomarkers, and validate instruments.

“Data and real-time data are now used in Urgent Care ... reduce[ing] the number of people that are coming back.”

Learning Health Systems Pillar

Policy, Process & Resources

Key Pillar Components

- Governance and accountability structures/systems
- Reporting and monitoring
- LHS-specific policies and processes
- LHS performance frameworks
- LHS adoption incentives
- Sustainable funding for LHS operations
- Change management

A New LHS Team at VCH

VCH established a role and team in 2022 to advance Learning Health Systems for community health services, public health, and Indigenous health. The first of its kind in British Columbia, this team is finding ways to foster an enabling environment, where teams are supported in closing the gap between knowledge and practice. This requires both incremental changes and broad policies that enable learning cycles for continuous quality improvement.

What ... changes can we make that have significant impacts downstream on patient care and overall patient experience?

Learning Health Systems Pillar

Indigenous Leadership & Participation

Key Pillar Components

- Addressing systemic racism
- Data governance and ownership
- Ownership, Control Access and Possession (OCAP)
- Cultural safety
- Compensation, value and acknowledgement
- Representation and tokenism

Matriarch Advisory Counsel (MAC)

MAC is a learning community of Indigenous Elders, matriarchs, and clinicians across VCH, who advise programs and guide research on Indigenous women's and children's health. For example, the MAC has been engaged in a perinatal substance use program, where they are providing guidance on how to support pregnant Indigenous Peoples actively using substances with perinatal healthcare access. More specifically, they have been advising on healthcare processes and services that should be provided to ensure that health care services are more culturally safe.

We are not comfortable talking about our trauma even if we have been doing this for many years. The onus is on us all to be used to feeling uncomfortable.

Connecting the Pillars

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**Policy, Process &
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