

Information about the Family Physician (FP) Shortage in BC

- 1 million citizens in BC with no GP – Population 5 million, 1 in 5 with no GP
- 100,000+ citizens in Victoria with no GP
- In Canada the researchers say we have 5 million residents without a Family Doctor. 1 million of those residents live in BC.
- As of April 2022, The Westshore of Greater Victoria has zero walk in clinics. Only the UPCC, and zero FP's taking new patients.
- Residents with Family Doctors are paying the price of the shortage as well, their access to their FPs is being affected by the overburdening of the FPs that are left.
- Kamloops currently has 12 vacancies for FPs. They have zero FPs taking new patients in the city. <https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/local-news/kamloops-family-doctor-cites-several-crises-5306057>
- Without Primary Care from a FP people will develop more diseases and the death rate will increase. https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/comment-bc-residents-are-dying-for-a-family-health-care-practitioner-5344985?fbclid=IwAR23Kibi46fHLFnEorg-QkEHPijeSRXf3dVRROjVB-n42_kMBgGDZcLLeu0
- Cancers and other diseases will go undiagnosed or diagnosed at later stages <https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/comment-bcs-health-care-system-needs-fixes-a-fast-5249669>
- Wait times for Surgeries in BC are the longest in the country due to lack of human resources. <https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/comment-bcs-health-care-system-needs-fixes-a-fast-5249669>
- COVID is not the cause to our crisis it is just a contributing factor
- The FP Shortage issue has been growing for over 10 years.
- Many pregnant women without a FP are struggling to find anyone that practices Maternity care to take them on. Without proper monitoring during pregnancy both the unborn child and the mother's lives are at risk.
- Once a child is born the mother and child will receive support from a Maternity Practice or hospital for 6 weeks. But, after 6 weeks that child and mother once again become unattached. They have no FP to monitor the health of the child, monitor for abnormalities parents are not trained to identify, or care for the post partum needs of the mother. 6-week-old babies and their mothers will wait for hours in a walk-in clinic or UPCC line up to maybe get care.
- The ER is diagnosing diseases that would be caught in a FP office visit, if patients had a FP. They are diagnosing Addison's Disease, Metastatic Cancer, Breast Cancer, Lymphoma Cancers, Uncontrolled Diabetes leading to amputations. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-nearly-900000-british-columbians-dont-have-a-family-doctor-leaving/>
- Many complex needs patients are among the 1 million without a Family Doctor. They have no one to monitor their disease progression, provide prescription refills or determine if their treatment plan needs adjusting.

Information about Urgent Primary Care Centres

- Urgent Primary Care Centre (UPCC) are not the solution to this Crisis

They cost significantly more annually than the MSP billings from a Private Practice FP, and most see less patients per provider per day. <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/template-or-poor-data-leaked-documents-raise-questions-about-b-c-urgent-care-centres-1.5891317>

Most UPCCs can't keep Doctors on staff, or have NO Doctors on staff. They rely heavily on Nurses. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/victoria-residents-lose-family-doctors-1.6204052>

Consistency of Care is not being provided through UPCC, reports and labs are not being reviewed or acted on consistently.

They have a place in the system, but they aren't even able to play their role as an URGENT care centre because they are having to fill the GAPS for FP shortages.

At many UPCCs they do not attach patients to a doctor, even though that was what the Health Minister said they would do. Therefore, they do not answer the need for more people to be attached to a doctor.

Residents with Disabilities, mobility issues, small children and the ill cannot stand in line ups at 7AM hoping they get a spot in a UPCC that day

- Commentary from a Family physician working 2 days a week in UPCC – “Based on MOH numbers, the Westshore UPCC, in Premier Horgan's riding, will see approximately 17,000 patients per year, at an annual operating budget of close to 4 million dollars. This works out at well over \$200 per visit. My Family Practice in Victoria with three physician FTEs and 3 MOAs will see more patients in a year and cost 1/4 of that cost per patient visit.” - Medical Post