

CART-GRAC

Contraception
Access
Research
Team



Groupe de
recherche sur
l'accessibilité à
la contraception

Contraception and Abortion in BC:

Experience Guiding Research Guiding Care

Monday May 5th, 2014

**Chan Centre for Family Health Education
at BC Children's and Women's Hospital Complex,
Vancouver, BC**



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Opt Options for
Sexual Health

**BC WOMEN'S
HOSPITAL+
HEALTH CENTRE** **W**
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Objectives

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

1. To engage interdisciplinary health professionals, policy-makers and patient-representatives in discussions on the most current national and international evidence for high quality abortion health service delivery.
2. Provide a forum for health professionals to network, learn of new opportunities, and build collaborations.
3. To disseminate the findings of the BC Abortion Providers Survey, and abortion provision in different contexts, that could inform decision making, clinical care, share best-practices and influence health system design.
4. Facilitate small-group discussions on the implications and opportunities within the research findings of the BC Abortion Providers Survey, and sharing of best-practices, supporting development of strategies for health system/health services improvements that will increase equitable access to, and quality of, family planning for BC women.



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BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre
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This program has been accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the British Columbia Chapter for up to eight Mainpro-M1 credits.

This event is an accredited group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by SOGC for a total of 5.25 credits.

Agenda

MORNING

CURRENT KNOWLEDGE, BC EVIDENCE & BEST PRACTICES

Participants:

Open invitation for all family planning clinicians, service providers and regional administrators, researchers, patient group representatives, and trainees

8:00–8:10

First Nations Welcome Ceremony

First Nations Elders

8:10–8:25

Welcome and Overview

*Dr Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer, BC Ministry of Health;
Dr Jan Christilaw, President, BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre;
Dr Wendy V. Norman, Conference Chair*

8:25–8:30

Introduction of the Ryan Program International Speaker

*Dr Brian Fitzsimmons, Assistant Professor, and Director,
Ryan Program in Family Planning, Dept of Obstetrics & Gynecology, UBC;
Medical Director, CARE Program, BC Women's Hospital*

8:30–9:10

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Abortion in Outpatient Settings: Access, Safety, Acceptability

*Dr Eve Espey, Professor, Department of OB-GYN
Chief, Family Planning Division, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM*

09:10–09:30

Abortion in the Global Context

*Dr Dorothy Shaw, Clinical Professor, UBC, Vice President, Medical Affairs,
BC Women's Hospital, Vancouver, BC*

09:30–09:50

Abortion in Canada: You Are Not Alone

Ms Dawn Fowler, Director, National Abortion Federation, Canada

09:50–10:10

NUTRITION AND NETWORKING BREAK – POSTER VIEWING SESSION

10:10–10:30

Medical Abortion – How To and What's New

Dr Ellen Wiebe, Clinical Professor, UBC

10:30–10:50

Abortion Service in BC: Findings from the British Columbia Abortion Providers' Survey

*Dr Wendy Norman, Assistant Professor, UBC
Dr Jennifer Dressler*

10:50–11:10

2-minute Lightning Presentations on BC Services, Organizations, Opportunities

BC Ministry of Health – *Joan Geber*
BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre – *Cheryl Davies*
OPTions for Sexual Health – *Jennifer Breakspear*
Ryan Program: Training at BC Women's – *Dr Brian Fitzsimmons*
Rural Coordination Centre of BC – *Dr Kirstie Overhill*
Women's Health Research Institute – *Dr Kathryn Dewar*
UBC Women's Health Family Physician Fellowship – *Dr Wendy Norman,
Conference Partners, Audience Members*

Agenda

- 11:10–11:50 **Interactive Audience-Panel Discussion:**
– Audience Submissions of Comments, Reaction, Questions
– Ideas to Address Identified Challenges/Opportunities
All Speakers, Moderator and Audience Members
- 11:50–12:00 **Conference Summary and Morning Session Closing Remarks**
Dr Dorothy Shaw
Dr Wendy Norman
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AFTERNOON BY INVITATION ONLY

AFTERNOON DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Participants **Invited Knowledge User leaders, Health System Decision-Makers, Patients, Rural physicians, Researchers and Trainees**

12:00–12:30 INTER-SECTORAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY LUNCH

12:30–13:00 **Presentation of Innovative Solutions in BC Communities**
(DURING LUNCH) *Providers from several BC communities*

13:00–14:30 **Creating Change Conversation Rounds**
– Change Topics generated by participants, choose 3 topics for 3 conversation rounds
– Open Space Technique
Facilitator

14:30–14:45 **NUTRITION AND NETWORKING BREAK**
– Gallery walk on Themes

14:45–15:30 **Issue to Action**
– In like groups, choose a theme to act on and within sphere of control identify improvement areas to take on
Facilitator

15:30–16:15 **Report Outs**
Facilitator

16:15–16:45 **Meeting Summary, Next Steps** – *Conference Chair*

16:45–17:00 **Closing Ceremony**

Speakers

Dr Jan Christilaw

Dr. Jan Christilaw is President of BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre (BC Women's) and a leader in Canada and internationally in ensuring women have access to high quality reproductive health care. She is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Obstetrics-Gynecology, holds a Masters of Health Science; is a Past-President of the Society of Obstetrician-Gynecologists of Canada; a Co-Chair of the Women's Health Task Force, a member of the JOGC Editorial Board, and past chair of the SOGC Ethics Committee. Jan's recent Awards include: the Federation of Medical Women of Canada Reproductive Health Award, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Cheryl Davies

Cheryl is currently the Vice-President, Patient Care Services at BC Women's. She has over 20 years experience in women's health as a nurse, educator and executive leader, in both community and hospital settings, and is a former Executive Director of the Elizabeth Bagshaw Women's Clinic. A lifelong volunteer, she is currently a Board Director with Health for Humanity.

Dr Kathryn Dewar

Dr Kathryn Dewar is the Research Program Manager at Women's Health Research Institute, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre. She collaborate with clinicians, residents and hospital staff to develop and implement research projects within the clinical programs of BC Women's Hospital.

Dr Jennifer Dressler

Dr Jennifer Dressler is a rural family physician living in Grand Forks and working in and around the West Kootenay/Boundary region. She graduated from the Okanagan Rural Family Medicine Program, during which she was a co-investigator in the BCAPS study. She is returning to UBC to complete additional training in obstetrics and women's health.

Dr Eve Espey

Dr Eve Espey, MD MPH is Professor and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Family Planning fellowship director at the University of New Mexico. She is President-elect of the Society of Family Planning, the Medical Advisory Committee Chair for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and Chair of the American College of OB-GYN's Committee on Underserved Women. She has numerous publications in the area of family planning and medical education and has presented locally, regionally and nationally on these topics.

Dr Brian Fitzsimmons

Brian Fitzsimmons, MD, FRCSC, FACOG is a Clinical Associate Professor, and Director of the Ryan Residency in Family Planning, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UBC, and the Medical Director of the CARE (Comprehensive Abortion and Reproductive Education) Program at BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre.

Dawn Fowler

Dawn Fowler is the Canadian Director for the National Abortion Federation. Previously, she worked at Health Canada as Chief of Reproductive and Child Health and coordinated the development of Canada's Perinatal Surveillance System which she insisted include abortion. She has also been a consultant with WHO – EURO Office and worked on reproductive health and quality assurance issues in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Dawn organized the opening of Vancouver Island women's Clinic in British Columbia and managed the facility for four years before taking her current position at NAF.

Speakers

Joan Geber

Joan Geber has worked in government since 2004. She is currently the Executive Director of the Population Health and Well-being Branch at the Ministry of Health. Within that Branch she provides leadership for two Directorates: the Healthy Development and Women's Health Directorate, and most recently, the Seniors' Health Promotion Directorate. Her responsibilities include development of policy and initiatives related to health promotion and prevention in the areas of women's, maternal and children's health, and seniors' health and well-being. Additionally, she supports the federal-provincial-territorial status of women table. She holds a Masters of Public Administration, a Bachelor of Nursing, and a Psychiatric Nursing diploma.

Dr Perry Kendall

Dr Perry Kendall has been British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer since 1999. As senior medical health officer for the province, he is responsible for advising the minister and senior members of the ministry on health issues in BC and on the need for legislation, policies and practices; monitoring the health of the people of B.C.; providing information and analyses on health issues; and, reporting to the public on health issues or on the need for legislation or a change of policy or practice respecting health. In 2011, Dr Kendall published the report on the Health and Wellbeing of Women in British Columbia.

Dr Wendy Norman (Conference Chair)

Dr Wendy V. Norman has been a family physician since 1985, and has been an abortion provider since 1991. She is an Assistant Professor, and Director, Clinician Scholars Program and Family Practice Research Training in the Department of Family Practice at UBC, and a Scholar of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

Norman's research program seeks to improve family planning access, quality of care, and health policy. She founded and co-leads the national collaboration: Canadian Contraception Access Research Team/Groupe de recherche sur l'accessibilité à la contraception. www.cart-grac.ca

Dr Dorothy Shaw

Dorothy Shaw, (MBChB, FRCSC, FRCOG, CEC, CCPE) is the Vice President, Medical Affairs for British Columbia's Women's Hospital & Health Centre, responsible for quality and safety in patient care using patient-centred, cost-effective approaches. She is a Clinical Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Medical Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Dr Shaw is Past President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (1991-1992) and was the first woman President of FIGO from 2006-2009. She currently chairs the Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

She is recognized for her contributions to the health and rights of women in Canada and globally and has received several highly prestigious awards in Canada and around the world.

Dr Ellen Wiebe

Dr Ellen Wiebe is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia. After 30 years of full-service family practice, she now restricts her practice to women's health. She is the Medical Director of Willow Women's Clinic in Vancouver providing medical abortions and contraception. Her research interests include abortion and contraception.

Facilitator: Jen Reed-Lewis

Ms. Jen Reed-Lewis has a MA in leadership training and is a seasoned leadership and organization development consultant, with 20 years experience as a catalyst and facilitator.

ABSTRACTS OF THE ARTICLES OF RESEARCH ON WHICH THIS CONFERENCE IS BASED

Abortion In British Columbia: Trends Over 10 Years Compared To Canada

Objectives: To determine trends and distribution in Canadian and British Columbia (BC) abortion services from 1995 to 2005.

Methods: We performed a secondary analysis of published data and data available through the BC Pregnancy Options Services database. We measured age-specific population trends and trends for abortion rates and service location in Canada and BC, and trends for the number of BC physicians performing abortions.

Results: While Canadian abortion rates declined 12% from 1995 to 2005, BC rates have remained largely unchanged (0.6% decline overall, 9% in highest risk group). Age-specific population shifts do not explain the trends nor the difference between Canada and BC. In both jurisdictions, a trend towards abortion provision in purpose-specific clinics prevails. In BC, 81% of abortions are now provided within clinics located in large urban centres, almost exclusively in Vancouver and Victoria. Since 1995, BC has experienced an estimated decline in the number of abortion providers offering services at hospitals outside the clinic system of upwards of 60%, and a 65% decline in the number of abortions provided in such hospitals.

Conclusions: BC abortion rates are not following Canadian declining trends and are increasingly available only in clinics located in large population centres. Accessibility for women in rural and remote locations has declined 65% from 1995 to 2005.

Abortion in British Columbia: trends over 10 years compared to Canada.
Norman WV. *Contraception* 2011; 84(3): 316.

The Perspective of Rural Physicians Providing Abortion in Canada: Qualitative Findings of the BC Abortion Providers Survey (BCAPS)

Background: An increasing proportion of Canadian induced abortions are performed in large urban areas. For unknown reasons the number of rural abortion providers in Canadian provinces, such as British Columbia (BC), has declined substantially. This study explored the experiences of BC rural and urban physicians providing abortion services.

Methods: The mixed methods BC Abortion Providers Survey employed self-administered questionnaires, distributed to all known current and some past BC abortion providers in 2011. The optional semi-structured interviews are the focus of this analysis. Interview questions probed the experiences, facilitators and challenges faced by abortion providers, and their future intentions. Interviews were transcribed and analyzed using cross-case and thematic analysis.

Results: Twenty interviews were completed and transcribed, representing 13/27 (48.1%) rural abortion providers, and 7/19 (36.8%) of urban providers in BC. Emerging themes differed between urban and rural providers. Most urban providers worked within clinics and reported a supportive environment. Rural physicians, all providing surgical abortions within hospitals, reported challenging barriers to provision including operating room scheduling, anesthetist and nursing logistical issues, high demand for services, professional isolation, and scarcity of replacement abortion providers. Many rural providers identified a need to “fly under the radar” in their small community.

Discussion: This first study of experiences among rural and urban abortion providers in Canada identifies addressable challenges faced by rural physicians. Rural providers expressed a need for increased support from hospital administration and policy. Further challenges identified include a desire for continuing professional education opportunities, and for available replacement providers.

The Perspective of Rural Physicians Providing Abortion In Canada: Qualitative Findings of the BC Abortion Providers Survey (BCAPS).
Dressler J., Maughn N., Soon JA, Norman WV. *PLOS* 2013 June 28, 8(6): e67070.

Abstracts

Barriers to Rural Induced Abortion Services in Canada: Findings of the British Columbia Abortion Providers Survey (BCAPS)

Background: Rural induced abortion service has declined in Canada. Factors influencing abortion provision by rural physicians are unknown. This study assessed distribution, practice, and experiences among rural compared to urban abortion providers in the Canadian province of British Columbia (BC).

Methods: We used mixed methods to assess physicians on the BC registry of abortion providers. In 2011 we distributed a previously-published questionnaire and conducted semi-structured interviews.

Results: Surveys were returned by 39/46 (85%) of BC abortion providers. Half were family physicians, within both rural and urban cohorts. One-quarter (17/67) of rural hospitals offer abortion service. Medical abortions comprised 14.7% of total reported abortions. The three largest urban areas reported 90% of all abortions, although only 57% of reproductive age women reside in the associated health authority regions. Each rural physician provided on average 76 (SD 52) abortions annually, including 35 (SD 30) medical abortions. Rural physicians provided surgical abortions in operating rooms, often using general

anaesthesia, while urban physicians provided the same services primarily in ambulatory settings using local anaesthesia. Rural providers reported health system barriers, particularly relating to operating room logistics. Urban providers reported occasional anonymous harassment and violence.

Conclusions: Medical abortions represented 15% of all BC abortions, a larger proportion than previously reported (under 4%) for Canada. Rural physicians describe addressable barriers to service provision that may explain the declining accessibility of rural abortion services. Moving rural surgical abortions out of operating rooms and into local ambulatory care settings has the potential to improve care and costs, while reducing logistical challenges facing rural physicians.

Barriers to Rural Induced Abortion Services in Canada: Findings of the British Columbia Abortion Provider Survey (BCAPS). Norman WV, Soon JA, Maughn N., Dressler J. PLOS 2013 June 28, 8(6): e67023.

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