

# Medical Staff Newsletter

## January 2025

**January 28, 2025**

*Estimated reading time: 9 minutes*

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*\*denotes readers will need to be on-site or access the PHSA network remotely to view these pages.*

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## Updates and Reminders:

### 1. Action Required: Sign Up for San'Yas and ARRT Before January 31

Sign up now to meet the **March 31, 2025** deadline to complete the [San'yas Anti-Racism Indigenous Cultural Safety Training](#) and the [Anti-Indigenous Racism Response Training \(ARRT\)](#). By starting *no later January 31*, [eligible medical staff](#) will be able to meet the deadline to receive reimbursement – up to 10 hours for San'yas and 4 hours for ARRT.

All medical staff must complete San'yas and ARRT, with new medical staff expected to finish the training within six months of their start date.

### Get Started Today

All medical staff must complete both:

1. [San'yas Anti-Racism Indigenous Cultural Safety Training](#) ([Core ICS Health](#) or [Core ICS Mental Health](#))
2. [Anti-Indigenous Racism Response Training](#) (ARRT)

If you encounter registration issues, please contact Carla Fabris at: [ICS@phsa.ca](mailto:ICS@phsa.ca). For any other questions or for more information, please contact Heather Paterson at: [Heather.Paterson@phsa.ca](mailto:Heather.Paterson@phsa.ca).

*This shared effort strengthens our collective commitment to dismantling racism and building a safer healthcare environment for all.*

[Register Here](#)

## 2. Reminder: Expression of Interest for Chair of PHSA's Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC)

On behalf of Tim Manning, Chair, PHSA Board of Directors and David Byres, President & CEO, PHSA, Medical & Academic Affairs is welcoming Expressions of Interest for Chair of PHSA's Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC) for the 2025 – 2028 term.

HAMAC is a committee of the Board representing all medical staff (dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical researchers and physicians) and includes medical leaders across PHSA. Reporting to PHSA's Board of Directors, the role of this committee includes:

### Key Responsibilities of the HAMAC Chair:

- Provide leadership in setting PHSA's strategic priorities, ensuring alignment with operational planning and decision-making.
- Leverage decision-making processes from the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) level.
- Ensure quality and patient safety remain central to HAMAC discussions.
- Enhance communication and education about HAMAC and PHSA governance within the medical staff community.

We would like to thank Dr. Eric Webber, who has served as HAMAC Chair since its inception in 2021. As HAMAC Chair, Dr. Webber has made significant contributions elevating the profile of medical staff within programs, at the level of the PHSA Board of Directors and amongst the five regional health authorities.

[Submit Your Application](#)

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their application, including a brief outline of their qualifications and vision for the role, to [Dr. Sean Virani](#) by **January 31, 2025**.

### 3. ICYMI: 2024/25 Viral Respiratory Illness Season and Updated Mask Policy

As communicated earlier this month by Dr. Titus Wong, executive medical director, Infection Prevention and Control and Medical Staff Wellness, PHSA and Dr. Jason Wong, chief medical officer, BC Centre for Disease Control, an [updated provincial policy issued by the BC Ministry of Health](#) outlining requirements for preventing and controlling viral respiratory illnesses (VRI), including influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19, in health-care settings has been put into effect throughout British Columbia.

The updated policy means medical masks are once again required for all health-care workers, volunteers, contractors, and visitors in patient-care areas where active patient care is being provided, which includes waiting rooms, home and community care locations (including a client's home), and any location where emergency health services are being provided.

Of note, this year the definition of patient-care areas has been updated. It now excludes areas where patient care is not actively being provided, such as foyers and hallways, cafeterias, chapels and family rooms, administrative areas and office spaces not typically accessed by patients, long term care residents, or clients.



For more, please see [PHSA Operational News](#)\*.

Medical staff who have questions about the updated policy may contact their program's Infection Prevention and Control lead.

- BC Cancer: [BCCAInfectionControl@phsa.ca](mailto:BCCAInfectionControl@phsa.ca)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [IPAC@BCCDC.ca](mailto:IPAC@BCCDC.ca)
- BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre: [IPACS@cw.bc.ca](mailto:IPACS@cw.bc.ca)
- BC Emergency Health Services: [IPAC.BCEHS@phsa.ca](mailto:IPAC.BCEHS@phsa.ca)
- BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services: [BCMHSUSInfectionControl@phsa.ca](mailto:BCMHSUSInfectionControl@phsa.ca)

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## In the News:

### 4. Must-Have Resources for Your 2025 Wellness Goals

January is the season of fresh starts, renewed commitments, and the perfect time to focus on building healthy habits that support health and wellbeing. The Office for Medical Staff Safety and Wellbeing (OSWELL) provides medical staff with a single touchpoint for safety and wellness needs. As part of this work, OSWELL has curated a list of essential resources for PHSA medical staff to prioritize their [wellness](#), and [physical](#) and [psychological](#) well-being. The

resource lists are frequently updated and now include links to [Wakeful Wednesdays](#) provided by the [Centre for Mindfulness](#) as well as a link to [sign-up for their newsletter](#).

Medical staff looking to boost their physical fitness, prioritize mental health, guard against burnout, or find balance in daily routines may benefit from OSWELL's curated list of resources. These supports are available to help medical staff set the tone for a healthier, more fulfilling year ahead.

### [Review Available Resources](#)

#### About OSWELL:

The Office for Medical Staff Safety and Wellbeing (OSWELL) was created in collaboration with Medical and Academic Affairs, People and Culture, and Communications to address needs identified in the 2023 PHSA Medical Staff Survey. OSWELL is committed to fostering a culture of care, where medical staff are supported to be *Eyhh Slaxin* (good medicine) for patients and families and for each other and themselves. The survey results informed the development of priority action areas, aligned with PHSA's vision, values, and the gifted Coast Salish Teachings, which guide new initiatives aimed at enhancing the wellbeing and work experience of medical staff.

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## Upcoming Events and Courses:

### 5. QI Training Opportunities: PQI Program 2025

The PHSA Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) program supports medical staff (physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives and dentists) and their teams in leading quality improvement initiatives that enhance patient care. Two opportunities are now open:

#### **Level 2 training: Introduction to Quality Improvement workshops**

PQI Introduction to Quality Improvement workshops are available for all PHSA members (medical staff and non medical staff) looking to get started in their QI learning journey. The workshop is delivered over two half-day virtual sessions and introduces participants to key QI tools and techniques used in healthcare settings and how to get started on a QI project. Medical staff may qualify for CME credits and may also be eligible for funding or compensation for participating in the workshops.

- **Registration is open now** via Learning Hub. Upcoming workshop dates are **February 6 & 7 mornings**, with future workshops taking place in late May/early June and early November.
  - [Click here to register](#) for Part 1 (Feb 6)
  - [Click here to register](#) for Part 2 (Feb 7)

#### **Level 3 training: Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) applied learning program**

The PQI longitudinal applied learning program is available to PHSA medical staff. The program provides an in depth educational experience over 12 months (7 full days of class time) and hands on coaching by dedicated staff to complete a QI project. Medical staff may qualify for CME credits and may also be eligible for funding or compensation for participating in this training.

- **PQI Cohort 9 Registration is [open now](#) until March 31, 2025.** Classes run between **Sept 2025 - June 2026.** Project coaching is on a continuous basis.

For more information on these or other PQI opportunities, please contact [PQI@phsa.ca](mailto:PQI@phsa.ca).

## 6. Register Now! Clear Leadership for Medical Leaders Starts February 5

The Clear Leadership course is designed to transform leadership skills, emotional intelligence, self-awareness and communications skills. Open to all medical staff, including physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives, clinical scientists, and dentists, the course offers participants both a well-integrated set of skills to make them more effective leaders and, for those that are ready, to challenge themselves and make a developmental leap to the next level of their growth. This is one of the best courses you can take to help navigate conflict.

### Course Details:

- **Who:** All medical staff across PHSA programs and services (including physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives, dentists, and clinical scientists)
- **When:** The course will run on Wednesday evenings starting **February 5**, except for session 3 occurring on a Tuesday evening and a pause during March break. Each session is 4 hours and includes dinner. [Click here](#) for a full list of dates and times.
- **Where:** Clear Leadership will be hosted **in person** by Mark Jeffrey at 1333 West Broadway.
- **To Register:** <https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/34908/phsa-clear-leadership-in-person-8-half-days>

Sessions are fully scheduled for the entire 4 hours and require participants to be in full attendance for all 8 days. Each session builds on the previous session and culminates in the last two sessions.

The cost is \$550, which includes Clear Leadership trade paperback book, participant workbook, access to the Clear Leadership Network and dinner.

For more information, please contact Mark Jeffrey, leadership coach, HR Leadership Continuity at: [mark.jeffrey@phsa.ca](mailto:mark.jeffrey@phsa.ca)

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## PHSA Operational & Leaders' News

- Read the latest [PHSA Operational News](#) and [Leaders' News](#)\*:
  - [New tiered violence risk alerts in CST Cerner](#)
  - [Updated Workplace Health and Safety policy](#)
  - Unique PHSA stories this week

- Jobs of the week

### Ongoing Resources:

- Check out the [Medical Staff webpages](#) on phsa.ca for information and resources for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical scientists and physicians.
- Learn about [health and wellness](#) resources to support you.
- Looking for past issues of the Medical Staff Newsletter? Visit our Communications [page](#).
- Visit [POD](#) for stories about our workforce and supporting resources\*.