
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health Services
BC Provincial Renal Agency

NEW FUNDING TO EXPAND KIDNEY SERVICES ACROSS B.C.

VANCOUVER – Government is investing a further \$4 million to improve access to treatment for patients with kidney disease and provide care and guidance for those in the early stages of the disease, Health Services Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

“British Columbia is leading the nation by working towards comprehensive care and services for kidney patients through every stage of the disease, in every corner of the province,” said Bond. “This investment is one more step towards ensuring that British Columbians with kidney disease live comfortably and independently to the best possible extent.”

Of the \$4 million in capital funding, \$2.3 million will go towards replacing aging dialysis machines and purchasing new equipment; and \$1.7 million will fund expansion projects.

The \$2.3 million for new equipment around B.C. includes:

- 12 new dialysis machines to deliver 5640 additional dialysis sessions per year.
- 9 replacement dialysis machines to create savings in repairs, maintenance and downtime.
- 61 machines for independent dialysis, allowing 61 patients to receive care at home.

The \$1.7 million for expansion around B.C. includes:

- The relocation of the chronic kidney disease clinic at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria to accommodate over 530 patients who receive renal education and training.
- The addition of one dialysis station for the Williams Lake area, and relocation of the unit to improve patient access.
- The peritoneal dialysis clinic expansion at the Royal Columbian Hospital to accommodate 200 patients for training and follow-up clinic visits.

“We are facing a growing epidemic in this province, and it’s critical that we meet the needs of this expanding patient population, says Dr. Adeera Levin, executive director of the BC Provincial Renal Agency. “For those in the later stages of kidney disease, dialysis is needed to stay alive.”

Decisions on where to invest the Health Services Ministry funding were based on data-proven need by a grass-roots committee of renal care providers from across B.C. The BC Provincial Renal Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, plans and coordinates the care of people with kidney disease throughout the province to ensure equitable access to high quality care.

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