

BACKGROUND

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April 21, 2004

Ministry of Health Services
BC Provincial Renal Agency

EXPANSION OF KIDNEY SERVICES AND CARE

Kidney services are being expanded in the following communities:

- **Prince George Regional Hospital:** currently has 14 hemodialysis stations; will benefit from six more stations
- **Abbotsford Community Unit:** currently has nine 9 hemodialysis stations; will benefit from an additional 12 stations plus relocation and expansion of chronic kidney disease program (pre-dialysis intervention program)
- **Royal Columbian Hospital:** currently has 23 existing hemodialysis stations; plans are being finalized for an additional seven stations plus expansion of chronic kidney disease and peritoneal dialysis, (home-based dialysis) programs
- **Surrey Memorial Hospital:** currently has 12 hemodialysis stations; will benefit from the implementation of the second phase of the chronic kidney disease and peritoneal dialysis programs
- **Vancouver General Hospital:** currently has 24 existing hemodialysis stations; will benefit from an additional six stations. The Hospital Foundation has donated \$700,000 of the project costs.

New innovations in kidney care will include:

- Patient registration to identify and track patients and their care;
- Reporting of standardized lab testing to family physicians;
- Education for patients of risk factors, signs and treatment of kidney disease, and preventative practices to slow or prevent progression to kidney failure;
- Development of increased options for independent care.

Risk factors for kidney disease:

- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Family history of kidney disease
- Known atherosclerotic disease
- Individuals of Asian/South Asian descent

Early symptoms of kidney disease:

Note: Many people do not have symptoms until the disease progresses.

- Foamy or bloody urine
- Headaches
- Frequent night time urination
- Puffy eyes or ankles

Symptoms as the disease progresses:

- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Puffy eyes or ankles
- Restless legs
- Anorexia
- Polyuria (large volume/increased frequency of urination)
- Itching

If you have some of these symptoms and are concerned, please call:

- Within Greater Vancouver: 604 215-4700
- Toll-free elsewhere in B.C.: 1-866 215-4700
- Deaf and hearing-impaired toll-free in B.C.: 1-866 889-4700

Media Public Affairs
contact: Ministry of Health Services
250 952-1887

Communications
BC Provincial Renal Agency
604 780-1290

Visit the province's Web site at www.gov.bc.ca for online information and services.