

Committee Update

The SSC welcomed back Candice Manahan, Northern Health Authority representative and Sarah Taylor, guest from Health Employers Association BC, and welcomed Asia Hollingsworth, Physician Quality Improvement manager at Doctors of BC.

Surgical Patient Optimization Collaborative (SPOC)

To date, SPOC has provided appropriate optimization to 96% of screened elective surgery patients who required optimization of at least one of 13 components. About 100 doctors engaged to implement prehabilitation work in 14 sites across BC. Based on information and care provided by their surgical preoperative team, 86% of patients agree that their overall health improved, 91% agree that their surgical experience improved, and 94% SPOC physicians also reported improved provider experiences. This year, SSC will release an updated [BC Surgical Prehabilitation Toolkit](#) and findings from a project evaluation and a clinical outcome analysis.

Surgical Renewal Strategy Update

The Ministry of Health provided an update on its 2020/21 commitment to surgical renewal for patients who had their surgery postponed due to COVID-19. Ninety-seven per cent of these patients have received their surgery. The ministry's budget 2021 provides a \$495m over three years to continue to support the surgical and diagnostic imaging strategy activities. Various committee representatives voiced support for improving surgical care and requested engagement in planning and to take into account challenges such as human resource limitations and burnout due to the pandemic.

2020/21 and 2021/22 Work Plans

In its year-end report to the PSC, the SSC noted that it achieved most of its planned activities while addressing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. [View 2020/21 year-in-review highlights](#) of SSC's accomplishments and impact. Based on current expenditure trends, staff presented a forecast along with projected underspend for this fiscal. Of this, \$3.51M was

approved as additional one-time funding to continue to implement the SSC strategy and initiatives that focus on quality improvement, leadership, spread, access, and surgery.

Post-COVID-19 Environment and Support for Specialists

The committee explored planning for a post-pandemic environment by understanding the current state of care provided by procedure and non-procedure-based specialists. Key themes of discussions included virtual care, team-based care, connectivity, and physician wellness.

In-patient Care

The Joint Collaborative Committee (JCC) In-patient Task Group shared recommendations to improve in-patient care across BC. These recommendations aim to enhance connections between doctors in communities and in facilities. It was recognized that successful implementation of these recommendations will be enabled by the partnership between the Doctors of BC, Ministry of Health, and health authorities—as demonstrated through the JCC— as well as broader partnerships.

Community-based Specialists Budget Allocation 2021/22

The SSC endorsed the planned allocation of \$500,000 to support community-based specialists. Funding will focus on engagement, business/practice workflows, QI, and leadership, and will support efforts with partners and existing programs.

SSC Meta-evaluation

An update on the review of SSC's work included a summary of the purpose, methods, and limitations, as well as early findings on strategy, collaboration, and awareness. Key highlights recognized that the committee has continued to evolve and that its impact on physician experience is a significant enabler.

Physician and Health Authority Engagement

Doctors of BC and the SSC's Facility Engagement Initiative presented common findings from their respective recent surveys. [Read the FEI interim report.](#)



The Specialist Services Committee (SSC) is one of four Joint Collaborative Committees representing a partnership of Doctors of BC and the government of BC. SSC aims to improve patient care by engaging physicians to:

- collaborate within the health system
- lead quality improvement initiatives
- deliver high quality services with SSC