

Frequently Asked Questions

Funding and establishing supports for Medical Staff Associations to enable doctors to be more effectively engaged to contribute their voice in Health Authority decision-making is an evolving process. The following are some frequently asked questions.

Why is funding directed to the Medical Staff Associations, and not to departments or the Medical Advisory Committee?

Funds are intended for use by physicians working in facilities. Funding will initially go to the Medical Staff Associations. If local physicians and the Health Authority agree to an alternate qualifying physician structure, funds may be redirected appropriately. From there, doctors can decide how to use the funding to improve engagement and their work environment.

Q: How does medical staff qualify for funds?

In order to receive the funds, medical staff must demonstrate they have:

- a governance and a decision-making structure that will represent the doctors in the facility,
- the ability to receive and appropriately account and report on expenditures, and
- made an effort to identify and work with members of the Health Authority. The Health Authority should be contacted at the start of the process.

Q: What if our medical staff is not meeting or does not even have an existing structure?

Staff support and start-up funds will be made available to assist in support physicians/ medical staff representatives to prepare and use this funding.

Q: What can the funding be used for?

The funding is meant to support physicians in the facilities with the tasks that many physicians do off the side of their desks. The funds can be used by the medical staff to pay physicians for their time spent on meeting to identify priorities, working on common issues or on priorities identified by the medical staff. It can also be used to hire non-clinical staff (e.g., analysts, administrative supports, etc.) to track issues, prepare recommendations/business cases, or to support groups or departments with follow-up actions.

The funding cannot be used for clinical services or equipment, property or vehicle purchases, donations, or paying to attend required meetings under the medical staff rules and bylaws.

Q: When will the funding become available?

Currently two pilot sites have been identified, University Hospital of Northern BC and Lions Gate Hospital. These two sites will help pave the way for future facilities. We anticipate needing three to six months to learn from the current projects and develop a provincial approach. In addition, we are developing templates and relevant information for sites to help them more easily get up and running.

Q. Who is distributing the funds?

The Specialist Services Committee governs the funds and they will be responsible for releasing the funds as needed.

Q: How do I get more information?

Please send an email to Cindy Myles at: cmyles@doctorsofbc.ca