

# THE SPECIALIST SERVICES COMMITTEE (SSC)

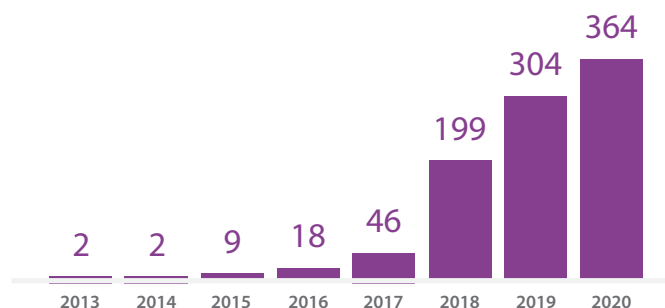
IMPROVES PATIENT CARE BY ENGAGING PHYSICIANS TO COLLABORATE, LEAD QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, AND DELIVER INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO BC'S HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES.



SSC has divided its work into three strategic areas and 12 initiatives (as seen in the below diagram). As part of some of these initiatives, participant physicians receive SSC funding and support to complete one or more improvement project(s) to better patient care, either directly or through improvements in the health system. These projects can be local, regional or sometimes provincial in scope.



## CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF SSC PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE 2013



Improvement projects completed to date (2013 to 2020)

Please note that the numbers above do not reflect the Facility Engagement improvement projects.

However, SSC's achievements are not limited to the improvement projects mentioned above. Each initiative works towards filling a gap and helps support, coach, train and create opportunities for collaboration across the health system.

Click [here](#) to learn more about SSC's programs and initiatives.

## A FEW EXAMPLES OF SSC'S IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

### Island Health blazes a new trail by cutting back on MS patients' need to travel for care

A Quality & Innovation project led by neurologist Dr Olinka Hrbenicek uses TeleHealth technology to serve MS patients living in Central and North Vancouver Island. As a result, the number of kilometres the patients have had to commute has been decreased by almost 156,000 kms, their driving time by 120,000 minutes, saving them more than \$30,000 in gas money, in addition to energy retained by patients whose Multiple Sclerosis (MS) already depletes their resources.

Read the full story [here](#).

### Teamwork is delivering powerful changes for newborns

With funding from Health System redesign, Dr Shivananda and his team worked to stabilize sick newborns in the delivery room, which is unique in North America. It allows for skin-to-skin bonding in the first hour of a newborn's life, even if a baby needs medical intervention.

Read the full story [here](#).

### Helping health care providers and patients use the same language in the ER

An ongoing challenge at Richmond Hospital's ER, where over 50% of patients speak mainly Mandarin or Cantonese was that interpreters were not always available. In searching for a solution, Dr Kwok spearheaded a Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) project using a rolling iPad device called Interpreter on Wheels (IOW) as an effective alternative.

Read the full story [here](#).

# Q2

JULY 1 2020 – SEP 28 2020



## 5,375

PHYSICIANS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING  
ACROSS ALL SSC INITIATIVES

354 Northern Health

1,144 Interior Health

1,074 Island Health

1,180 Vancouver Coastal Health/  
Providence Health

1,214 Fraser Health

380 PHSA

*Please note that there are physicians  
with unknown health authority  
affiliations, the numbers may  
therefore not add up*

**3,324** specialists currently participating  
across all SSC initiatives

**48** specialty types participating  
across all SSC

**81%** of participating physicians rated  
their participation in SSC initiatives  
as a *valuable* use of their time

**203** improvement projects (teams)  
underway transforming  
patient care

**257** physicians trained in leadership  
and quality improvement

**185** through Physician Quality Improvement

**52** through Physician Leadership Scholarship

**25** through UBC Sauder Leadership Program

*\* Note: Some physicians have taken more than one type of  
leadership program, that's the reason the numbers in the  
subcategories don't add up.*