



LOOKING SHARP!

FIREFIGHTERS RESCUE SHAMI

Powell River
Division of Family Practice
A GPSC Initiative

Spring 2015

SHAMI (Sharp Management Initiative) began with an intake form received by the Division in November 2014. The request was for help with sharps disposal. The form detailed the absence of a community program for dealing with sharps (used needles) according to Provincial policies and procedures.

Lin Johnson, administrative assistant, and Jorge Villamil, project manager, undertook the task of developing a cost effective method for sharps disposal. Their research revealed that according to BC Provincial guidelines, clinics and other practices such as dentists, acupuncturists, and tattoo artists were responsible for their used sharps storage, transport, and disposal.

Due to the high cost of sharps management, individual clinics developed their own ad-hoc methods for dealing with their sharps. In many cases, this

entailed long-term storage without a solidified plan for the next steps.

The Division team began to put the pieces in place for a unified sharps strategy. They sourced the appropriate containers for packaging up the sharps and determined that City Transfer was an appropriate transporter. However, picking up from each individual location would be an expensive endeavor. The

key to an effective process was having a central pick-up point for the sharps.

This type of collection was outside of the mandate of the Powell River General Hospital. But, while at the hospital in the Community Health Centre one day, Jorge saw a sign “Sharps? Call the Fire Department”. He contacted the Fire Department to investigate the possibility of collecting the sharps there.

To the delight of everyone involved, the Fire Department stepped up to the challenge and offered their services to collect, package, and handoff to City Transfer. As of March 31, 2015 a total of 13 boxes, or approximately 500 pounds of sharps were collected and disposed of. Thank you Powell River Fire Rescue – we couldn’t have done this without you!



Lin Johnson & Jorge Villamil of the Division, Laurie Stewart from Drs. Needham & Chow dental clinic, and Terry Peters Assistant Chief of Powell River Fire Rescue with bags of Sharps.



Bruce Hobson, Sally Watson, and Pat Townsley present the big picture

A GP for Me Implementation Plan Approved!

The development of an Implementation Plan for A GP for Me has been an extensive process of collecting community data, engaging family practitioner input, and meeting with steering committee members. The writing of the plan was lead by project coordinator Megan Sloan, and guided by physician lead Dr. Sally Watson.

March 31, 2015 was the big show. After many revisions, consults, and pre-readiness meetings, the final Implementation Plan was delivered for final review. Today was the day to present! Dr. Bruce Hobson, Dr. Sally Watson, Megan Sloan, and Pat Townsley from PRGH

presented to approximately 40 members of the GPSC (General Practices Services Committee), the Ministry of Health, and Doctors of BC.

The culmination of months of work resonated with the review panel. A four-strategy approach was approved, with a budget of approximately \$400,000.

Over the course of the next year, our plan to 1) improve physician attraction and retention; 2) increase attachment for vulnerable and complex patients; 3) build senior connectivity and support; and 4) provide practice management support, will be delivered to the community.



THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS:

Breathe out
Dealing with difficult patients
Dr. Bruce Hobson

Wassup, Doc?! - Tips for Teens in 2015
Dr. Leta Burechailo

Rapid Fire Dermatology
Dr. Elizabeth Kruithof

Something to consider before
you order that D-dimer
Dr. Ian Ricketson

The little boy with the stiff neck
is the trampoline always the culprit?
Dr. Brigitte Dohm

Radiation Considerations for CT
Dr. Ken Crocker

Registration Now Open
604-485-4700
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May 13 2015
Tree Frog Bistro 6-8:30pm



Annual General Meeting

June 9, 2015

Followed by dinner at
The Alchemist

