

Date:	January 23, 2024
To:	NH Leadership, NH Staff and Physicians
From:	Yaser Ahmed, Regional Lead, Cardiac and Stroke Jordan Oliver, Executive Lead, Emergency, Trauma, and Transfer Services
Re:	St. Paul's Hospital Cardiac Transfer Diversion (January 22nd – January 25th, 2024)

An Influenza Outbreak has been declared on the cardiac ward at St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) on Sunday, January 21, 2024. The temporary closure of the SPH Cardiac ward is limiting capacity to receive cardiac transfers from Northern Health. **Effective immediately and until Thursday, January 25th, 2024**, Northern Health urgent cardiac patients requiring transfer out-of-health authority should be directed away from SPH. The activated diversion plan below has been made in partnership with Cardiac Services BC and the affected Health Authorities. The Patient Transfer Network (PTN) has been notified to support diversion of cardiac patients away from SPH in discussion with NH physicians and the NH Patient Transfer and Flow Office (PTFO).

NH Cardiac Transfer Process until Thursday, January 22nd, 2024:

1. Physicians are required to call PTN at **1-866-233-2337** when cardiac transfer is required. PTN will coordinate a physician conference as needed with the suggested tertiary cardiac site.
2. Physicians are to direct cardiac transfers to Kelowna General Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital, or Royal Columbian Hospital.
3. Because SPH provides some quaternary cardiac services not available anywhere else, sending physicians are welcome to communicate with the physicians at these receiving sites to discuss transfer options. In some cases, it will still be necessary to transfer patients to SPH.
4. SPH will continue to accept emergent RED Cardiac Transfers (i.e., Life Limb Threatened Organ - LLTO) from Northern Health.
5. The NH Cardiac Triage Coordinator will continue to monitor cardiac transfers and work with PTN, NH PTFO, and the other Health Authorities to re-direct transfers as needed.

The outbreak is being closely monitored at SPH and an update is expected on Thursday, January 25th, 2024 to provide further direction on the situation and whether the outbreak is declared over.

For any transfer concerns or if escalation is required, please contact the **NH Patient Transfer and Flow Office (PTFO)** available 24/7 at **250-645-7896**. All other questions or concerns should be directed to:

<p>NH Patient Transfer and Flow Office NH Cardiac Triage Coordinator: Mattie Clark Email: PatientTransfer@northernhealth.ca Tel: 250-645-7896</p>	<p>Yaser Ahmed, NH Regional Lead, Cardiac Care Email: yaser.ahmed@northernhealth.ca Cell: 250-552-9697</p>
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