

Date:	January 15, 2021
To:	NH Leadership, NH Physicians
From:	Jordan Oliver, Executive Lead, Emergency, Trauma, and Transfer Services Jessica Place, Executive Lead, Regional Chronic Diseases
Re:	COVID-19 Outbreak at St Paul's Hospital Cardiac Units: Diversion Plan Extended

A COVID-19 outbreak in St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) cardiac wards continues to limit capacity to receive cardiac transfers at both SPH and Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). Cardiac patients requiring transfer should **continue to be diverted**, when possible, to avoid these two sites **until Friday January 22nd**. 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, including charge nurses across NH to help support diversion of cardiac patients from SPH and VGH in discussion with physicians.

NH Cardiac Transfer Process until Friday January 22nd 2021:

1. Physicians are to direct cardiac transfers to Kelowna General Hospital, Royal Jubilee or Royal Columbian hospital if at all possible.
2. 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.
3. Because SPH and VGH provide some cardiac services that are 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 and VGH.
4. The NH Cardiac Triage Coordinator will continue to monitor cardiac transfers and work with PTN and the other Health Authorities to re-direct as needed.

The outbreak is being closely monitored at SPH and an update will be provided with direction for the following week until the outbreak is declared over.

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

Northern Health Cardiac Triage Coordinator Mattie Clark Email: mattie.clark@northernhealth.ca Tel: 250-565-5515 Cell: 778-349-7126	Regional Lead, Cardiac Care Yaser Ahmed Email: yaser.ahmed@northernhealth.ca Cell: 250-552-9697
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