



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

March 23, 2021

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Please note: Effective immediately, the Medical Staff Digest will be distributed once a week, on Tuesdays.

Clinical updates

UPDATE: Kelowna General Hospital Cardiac Patient Diversion plan - Early Termination

By Jessica Place, Executive Lead, Regional Chronic Diseases, and Heidi Johns, Regional Manager, Patient Flow and Transfer, Northern Health

Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) has regained full capacity to receive cardiac patient transfers and referrals from Northern Health. **Northern Health physicians can resume directing cardiac inpatient catheterization and cardiac surgical referral to KGH.** As per the regular COVID-19 transfer process, physicians are required to call Patient Transfer Network (PTN) at 1-866-233-2337 when cardiac transfer is required to any of the five cardiac tertiary centres. PTN will coordinate a physician conference as needed with the suggested tertiary cardiac site.

For any transfer concerns or if escalation is required, please contact the Northern Health 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:

<p>Northern Health Cardiac Triage Coordinator Mattie Clark Email: mattie.clark@northernhealth.ca Tel: 250-645-8664 Cell: 778-349-7126</p>	<p>Regional Lead, Cardiac Care Yaser Ahmed Email: yaser.ahmed@northernhealth.ca Cell: 250-552-9697</p>
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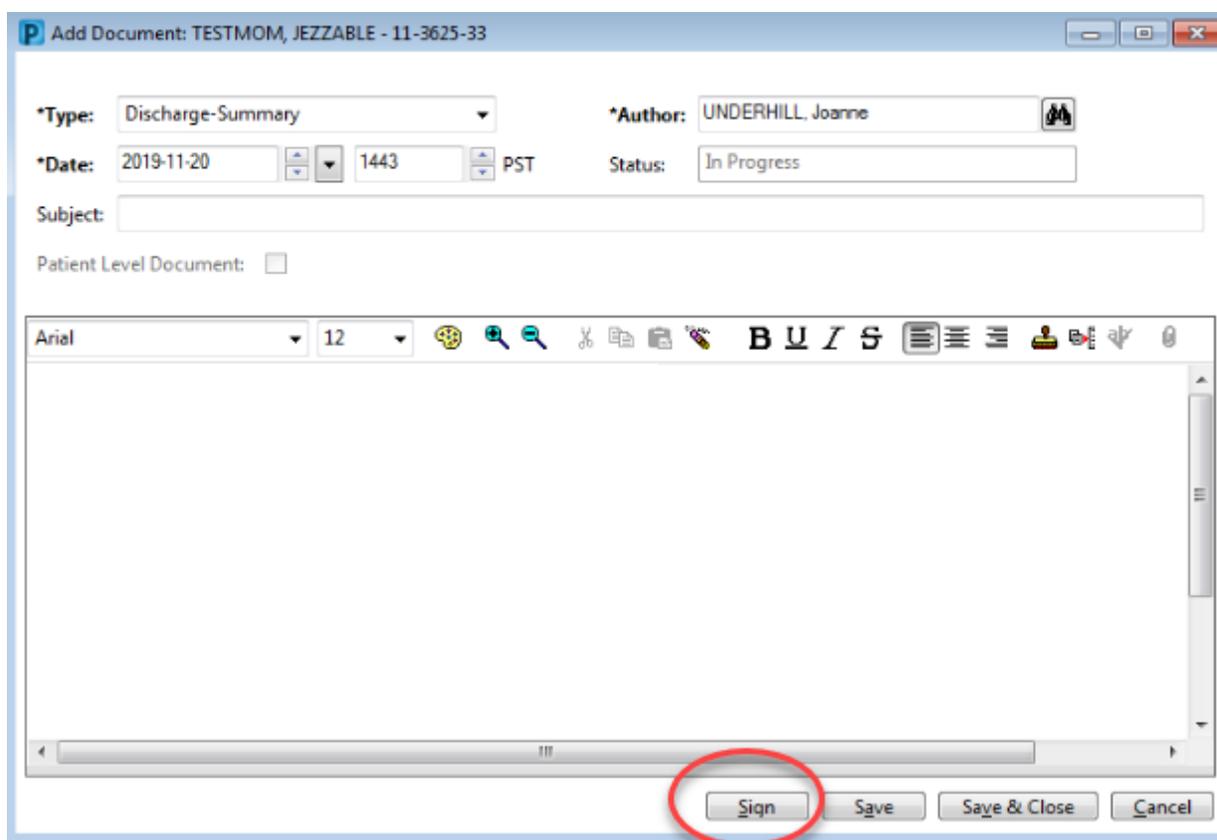
“Unsigned” Clinical Documents in PowerChart

By Kristi Hovland, Regional Manager, Coding, Analytics & Transcription

When a clinical note is created in PowerChart (either using Dragon Medical One (DMO) or self-typed), the provider has the option of “signing” or “saving” the document.

Clinical documents in PowerChart that are in “saved” status are draft documents and are viewable only by the author and do not distribute. This may affect continuity of patient care as necessary clinical information is not available to practitioners.

Electronic documentation needs to be “signed” in the Electronic Health Record to be completed so that they distribute and are viewable to others. For self-transcribed documentation, this requires the author to select the “Sign” button.



A policy is being implemented to auto-distribute unsigned self-transcribed documents with a disclaimer 72 hours after their creation, which will indicate the document was published without verification to mitigate the patient risk associated with unsigned documents.

To check if you have documents in a “saved” status in PowerChart, go to your Message Center under Work Items > Saved Documents. Documents with a saved status in Message Centre can be opened, updated and signed within this application.

Questions? Contact Transcription at rtspendingteam@northernhealth.ca or 1-844-565-5950.

COVID-19

NH's COVID-19 resources

- On the NH physician website:
 - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- On OurNH:
 - [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
 - [Pandemic Recovery Toolkit](#)

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of March 22, **5,576** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **363**
- New cases: **29**
- Currently in hospital: **39**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **14**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **119**

For the latest provincial numbers, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested.

As well, for a visual comparison of COVID-19 cases in BC by HSDA to other Canadian and global jurisdictions, see the [COVID-19 Epidemiology app](#). It's updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – March 22, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – March 17, 2021

Northern Health Virtual Clinic: data on patient visits

The Northern Health Virtual Clinic supports after hours access to COVID-19 and primary care services for those who cannot easily access these services in their communities. The goal is to connect people to their local primary care home wherever possible.

Thursday, March 18

- 230 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 38 primary care provider appointments (27 primary care from Prince Rupert, Smithers, Fort St. John, Prince George, Chetwynd, Hazelton, Terrace, Masset, Kitimat, Moberly Lake, and Vanderhoof, and 11 COVID-19 related)

Friday, March 19

- 183 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 28 primary care provider appointments (18 primary care from Prince George, Chetwynd, Terrace, Kitwanga, Dawson Creek, Prince Rupert, and Fort St. John, and 10 COVID-19 related)

Saturday, March 20

- 96 COVID-19 nursing assessments

- 19 primary care provider appointments (11 primary care from Prince Rupert, Terrace, Prince George, Burns Lake, and Dawson Creek, and 8 COVID-19 related)

Sunday, March 21

- 151 COVID-19 nursing assessments
- 14 primary care provider appointments (13 primary care from Topley, Kersley, Smithers, Port Edward, Terrace, Prince George, Quesnel, and Prince Rupert, and 1 COVID-19 related)

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLink BC COVID-19 page](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 content in other languages](#)
- WorkSafe BC - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: **1-844-645-7811**
- Northern Health Environmental Health Officer Line: **1-250-565-7322**
- **Non-medical info:** call **1-888-COVID19 / 1-888-268-4319** 7 days, 7:30 am - 8 pm

For current information on restrictions on travel, gatherings and other issues, see the [Provincial Health Officer's COVID-19 webpage](#).

Overdose prevention and response

Important information for those responding to overdoses; Benzodiazepines found in opioids

Reports of benzodiazepines (benzos) contaminating the illicit drug supply continue to increase across BC. Benzos, including rarer analogues such as etizolam, are becoming more common in the illicit drug (opioid) supply. Benzos found in opioids **increase the likelihood of overdose, and the complexity of overdose presentations and response**, as a result of combined opioid and benzo respiratory depression. Physicians report seeing patients in benzo withdrawal.

For more details and clinical considerations, see the [Benzos in Opioids Summary Sheet](#).

Other organizational news

Free online concert dedicated to all healthcare workers: Festival Te Deum – featuring the Vancouver Vivaldi Chamber Choir

The Vivaldi Chamber Choir in Vancouver is gifting their upcoming *Festival Te Deum* production to all healthcare workers, free of charge.

The production will be available for viewing any time, as often as you wish, between **Friday March 26, 4 pm. PST**, and **Sunday April 11, 8:30 pm. PST**. [Register free of charge!](#)

Wellness and more

Resources for wellness are available on the [Health and Wellness page](#) of the Physicians Website. For more information on [staff deals](#), the [NH Community Corner](#), and [RAARs](#), visit [OurNH](#).