



How you want to be treated.

Memorandum

To **VCH Family Practice Department Heads**
From **Dr. Garey Mazowita, Head, Dept of Family and Community Medicine, PHC**
Dr. Andrew Ignaszewski, Head, Division of Cardiology, PHC
Dr. Scott Lear, Assistant Academic Director, Healthy Heart Program, PHC
Date **July 30, 2009**
Re **Rapid Access to Cardiology Expertise program**

The **Rapid Access to Cardiology Expertise (RACE)** program is a patient-centered collaborative, shared-care model of service provision between primary care physicians and cardiology specialists. The overarching objective of RACE is to improve access to cardiology specialists by family physicians who are faced with assessing, diagnosing and treating complex patients that exhibit a variety of existing and/or potential cardiovascular disorders. By calling the RACE pager, family physicians can expect to receive consultation with a cardiologist within two hours of placing the initial call.

The first phase of the RACE program began in February with the initial phase rolled out to the PHC's Department of Family and Community Medicine. The response to the RACE program has been overwhelmingly positive that we have increased our capacity with the addition of cardiologist **Dr. Carolyn Taylor** to Dr. Jim Nasmith so that we can now offer the service to other Family Practice units in VCH.

To have access to cardiology expertise Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. The cardiologist can be reached on the RACE pager at 604-258-3007

How will this initiative help the patient?

- RACE will help to ensure that patients who exhibit a variety of cardiovascular disorders receive timely assessment and treatment in the context of a cardiac shared care model.

How will this initiative help the primary care physician(s)?

- Race will create a setting wherein family physicians can access cardiology specialists in order to receive guidance and advice regarding the appropriate assessment, management and treatment of patients with cardiovascular disorders.

How will this initiative help the cardiologist(s)?

- RACE will provide incentives and supports for cardiology specialists to cooperate and collaborate with family physicians in the care of patients who exhibit a variety of cardiovascular disorders.

For any process/logistical questions on this service, please contact Scott Lear at 604-682-2344 ext 62778 or slear@providencehealth.bc.ca.

These phone calls MAY be eligible for the COMMUNITY CONFERENCING FEE (14016) provided components such as frail elderly, multiple complex comorbidities, mental health, palliative, etc. criteria are fulfilled. Brief calls to arrange expedited referrals, simple advice etc. are likely not billable by the family physician.

