



Western Canada Waiting List Project

UPDATE  
W C W L N e w s l e t t e r

August 2002

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### WHAT'S NEW?

The last couple of months have been dedicated to developing a way to evaluate the WCWL prioritization tools operating in participating health regions. A more complete description of that work will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

Financial support from the four western provincial ministries of health is now in place, and Calgary Health Region is operating as fund holder for the project. Office space for WCWL is located in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary.

### NEW STEERING COMMITTEE

The four WCWL partner groups have nominated members to the Steering Committee, and the inaugural meeting will be in the form of a teleconference on September 24. A meeting of the 19 Partners will be scheduled to take place later this year.

Steering Committee members from the four medical associations include **Mr. Darrell Thomson**, Director, Economics and Policy Analysis with the British Columbia Medical Association and **Dr. Isra Levy**, Director, Health Programs at the Canadian Medical Association.

Representing the seven regional health authorities are: **Dr. Barry Maber**, Vice President, Saskatoon District Health and **Ms. Kathleen Ness** Director, Clinical Performance, Information and Research, Capital Health Authority.

Representation from the government partners includes **Ms. Lauren Donnelley**, Executive Director, Acute and Emergency Services Branch, Saskatchewan Health, **Ms. Pat Hosang**, Executive Director, Urban and Regional Support Services, and **Ms. Diane Lugsdin** Manager, Acute Care and Technology Unit, Health Services Division, Health Care Strategies and Policy Directorate, Health Policy and Communications Branch, Health Canada.

The research partners are represented on the Steering Committee by **Dr. Tom Noseworthy**, Professor and Director, Centre for Health and Policy Studies, University of Calgary and **Dr. Carolyn DeCoster**, Senior Researcher, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy.

The role of the Steering Committee is to provide the guidance necessary for carrying out the project, accomplishing the stated goal and objectives, meeting timelines, and demonstrating responsible stewardship of the funding. Accountable to the 19 WCWL Partners, the Steering Committee meets quarterly, typically by teleconference.

### WITH OUR SINCERE THANKS

As the project moves from its developmental stages to implementation, we would like to acknowledge the contribution of individuals who represented their organization on the project. The Partnership first met in Calgary in November, 1998 and it is fitting to offer our sincere thanks to the following individuals who have contributed in many ways to the project over the past four years.

**Dr. Mark Taylor**, Deputy Head, Department of Surgery St. Boniface General Hospital and Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Manitoba, served as the Clinical Co-Chair of the General Surgery Panel, served as a member of the original Steering Committee and as the WRHA representative on the WCWL Partnership. While Mark will remain engaged in the implementation of the prioritization tools at WRHA, **Ms. Jan Currie**, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, will represent WRHA.

**Ms. Barb Young**, Clinical Risk Management Specialist, Quality Improvement - Health Information, Calgary Health Region, played a key role in the 1998 inaugural meeting of the Partnership; she served as a member of the MRI Scanning Clinical Panel and represented Calgary Health Region on the WCWL Partnership and the original Steering Committee. Taking over from Barb is **Dr. Rob Abernethy** Medical Director, Administration, Calgary Health Region.

**Dr. David Newsome**, Vice President, Programs and **Dr. D'Arcy Lawrence**, Chief, Medical Imaging, Royal Jubilee Hospital, represented Capital Health Authority (as it was known then) on the Partnership and Dr. Lawrence served on the MRI Scanning Clinical Panel. **Dr. Glen Lowther**, Executive Vice President, will represent the reconfigured district under its new name - Vancouver Island Health Authority.

**Ms. Pat McKendrick** Regional Project Planner and **Ms. Angela Estey**, Regional Project Planner, Clinical Affairs, represented Capital Health Authority on the Partnership, and Ms. Estey played a key role in phase-2 pilot testing of the hip and knee replacement tool. **Ms. Kathleen Ness**, Director, Clinical Performance, Information and Research, will represent CHA on the Partnership and will sit on the WCWL Steering Committee.

The (former) Vancouver Richmond Health Authority was represented by **Dr. Charles Wright** Director, Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation, Vancouver Hospital and **Dr. David Matheson**, DMMD Consulting. **Dr. Garth Warnock**, Head, Department of Surgery, Vancouver Hospital will represent Vancouver Coastal Health Authority on the Partnership; Dr. Warnock served as a member of the General Surgery Clinical Panel.

**Ms. Deborah Wilson** served as the Alberta Medical Association representative throughout the developmental phase of our work; **Dr. Luxie Trachsel**, Assistant Executive Director, Professional Affairs, has assumed this responsibility.

**Dr. Lynn Redfern**, Senior Consultant, served as the Alberta Health and Wellness representative on the Partnership and this responsibility has now passed to **Ms. Brenda Wayne-Parry**, Manager Research Coordination.

There has been some change in representation among the academic partners as well. At the University of British Columbia **Dr. Sam Sheps**, Professor, Department of Health Care and Epidemiology has taken over from **Dr. Morris Barer**, now Director, Institute of Health Services and Policy Research, CIHR. At the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy **Dr. Carolyn DeCoster**, Senior Researcher has taken over from **Dr. Charlyn Black** who has assumed the position of Director, Centre for Health Services and Policy Research. **Mr. Steven Lewis** represented Saskatchewan's Health Services Utilization and Research Commission while he was CEO of that organization. With his move to Access Consulting **Mr. Laurie Thompson** assumed the CEO position and responsibilities for WCWL representation. Finally the University of Calgary has joined the partnership replacing the University of Alberta, and **Dr. Tom Noseworthy**, Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences now represents the University of Calgary.

## PHASE-2 PILOT WORKSHOP

### General Surgery

As part of our series on the WCWL Phase-2 Pilot Workshop held in Calgary in March, this month we present a synopsis of the general surgery report.

Phase-2 validity testing was carried out on patients waiting for surgery at both a teaching hospital and a community hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Twelve surgeons completed the priority criteria forms for consecutive patients seen in their practices between January 1 and May 1, 2001. Data describing the summed Priority Criteria Score (PCS), the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) of urgency, the surgeon's judgment of maximum acceptable wait time and the patients' actual wait time was collected for 411 patients. The purpose of the study was to investigate measurement properties of the priority criteria tool, examine the relationship between the PCS and other indicators of urgency and to compare indicators of urgency with actual wait times. The surgeons readily accepted the form and indicated that it was easy to complete.

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## UPDATE

THE UPDATE is the monthly newsletter of the Western Canada Waiting List Project. It is published at the Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary, 3330 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 4N1. For more information, please contact John McGurran, Project Director, at 403-210-3813 [info@wclw.org](mailto:info@wclw.org) or visit our website at <http://www.wclw.org>

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Funding for the Western Canada Waiting List Project is provided by Manitoba Health, Saskatchewan Health, Alberta Health & Wellness, the British Columbia Ministry of Health and Health Canada.