



April 22, 2014

Dear Physicians and Midwives:

An important message about referring pregnant women to health authority public health services

This notice is to advise how you can access public health services for your prenatal patients, and to encourage you to refer women to public health as early in pregnancy as possible. You can refer to public health by phone, fax or on-line as available (see below for referral details). Women can also self-refer.

Why should physicians and midwives refer and how will pregnant women benefit? Public health prenatal services complement your reproductive healthcare services to support pregnant women with screening, health promotion, education, and referral to other needed health or community services (supported by resources such as Baby's Best Chance). Public health can offer vulnerable women more intensive follow-up and enhanced support services and will support women to make the healthiest choices possible in pregnancy.

What happens after public health receives the referral? Once a public health nurse (PHN) receives a referral, they will assess the woman's needs and offer her public health and community services to support the healthiest pregnancy possible, starting as early in pregnancy as possible. This information becomes part of the confidential health record and provides PHNs with a good starting point to establish a relationship with your patient and their family. When concerns are identified, PHNs will provide updates and outcome information to the referring physician/midwife.

When is the best time to refer? Referral as early in pregnancy as possible is best. Early prenatal care and support result in better outcomes. Even if you do not follow your patients to delivery, early referral by you to public health at the first prenatal contact is very important.

Additionally, public health across BC is currently participating in a randomized controlled trial called the **BC Healthy Connections Project (BCHCP)**. The BCHCP is a scientific evaluation, conducted by the Children's Health Policy Centre, Simon Fraser University, of the effectiveness of an intensive home-visiting program, called the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program. NFP is designed to help disadvantaged young first-time mothers and their children. It has been proven effective in the US but has never been tested in Canada until now. PHNs will screen your referrals and offer services; potentially eligible women will then be invited to consider the BCHCP. Eligible women who consent to participate in the BCHCP will be randomly selected to receive the intensive intervention or offered other appropriate public health services based on their needs. For more information see <http://www.healthyfamiliesbc.ca/home/bc-healthy-connections-project> or www.childhealthpolicy.ca, or contact Donna Jepsen, NFP Provincial Coordinator at donna.jepsen@gov.bc.ca or at 604-707-6372.

Thank you for referring your pregnant patients to public health services to complement your care.

Sincerely,

Dr. Perry Kendall

Shannon Norberg

Joan Geber, ED

How do I refer pregnant women to Public Health?

You can refer a pregnant patient by phone, fax or through on-line prenatal registries. A patient can also self-refer.

Health Authority	How to Refer		
	On-line	By Phone	By Fax
Fraser Health	On-line Registration: Best Beginnings http:// bestbeginnings.fraserhealth.ca/default.aspx	Abbotsford 604-864-3400 Agassiz 604-793-7160 Burnaby 604-918-7605 Chilliwack 604-702-4900 Delta – North 604-507-5400 Delta – South 604-952-3550 Hope 604-860-7630 Langley 604-539-2900 Maple Ridge 604-476-7000 Mission 604-814-5500 New Westminster 604-777-6740 Surrey – Cloverdale 604-575-5100 Surrey – Guildford 604-587-4750 Surrey – Newton 604-592-2000 Surrey – North 604-587-7900 Tri-Cities – Port Coquitlam 604-777-8700 Tri-Cities – Port Moody/Coquitlam 604-949-7200 White Rock/South Surrey 604-542-4000	604-864-3410 604-796-8587 604-918-7630 604-702-4901 604-507-4617 604-946-6953 604-869-2332 604-514-8036 604-476-7077 604-814-5517 604-525-0878 604-574-3738 604-5874777 604-501-4814 604-582-4811 604-941-2409 604-949-7211 604-542-4009
Interior Health	On-line Registration: Healthy From The Start http:// www.interiorhealth.ca/ HealthyFromTheStart	Call toll-free 1-855-868-7710 (Mon to Sat, 8:30- 4 pm PST). Messages can be left after hours.	250-868-7809 Referral forms available online at: www.interiorhealth.ca/ HealthyFromTheStart or by calling: 1-855-868-7710
Island Health	On-line Registration: Right from the Start http://www.viha.ca/ children/pregnancy/ prenatal_registration.ht m	<u>Call the local health unit Mon – Fri, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm:</u> Campbell River 250-850-2110 Comox Valley 250-331-8520 Duncan 250-709-3050 Esquimalt 250-519-5311 Gold River 250-283-2626 Ladysmith 250-755-3342 Lake Cowichan 250-749-6878 Nanaimo 250-755-3342 Peninsula 250-544-2400 Parksville/Qualicum 250-947-8242 Outer Gulf Islands Toll-free 250-539-3099 Port Alberni 250-731-1315 Port Hardy 250-902-6071 Port McNeill 250-956-4711 Saanich 250-519-5100 Salt Spring Island 250-538-4880 Sooke 250-642-5464 Tofino/Ucluelet 250-725-4020 Victoria 250-388-2200 West Shore 250-519-3490	Fax all prenatal registrations/referrals to 1-855-544-2403

Northern Health	For more information: http://northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/PublicHealth/Prenatal-Postpartum-FamilyHealth.aspx	Burns Lake 250-692-2460 Fraser Lake 250-699-8960 Fort St James 250-996-7178 Fort St. John 250-263-6000 Mackenzie 250-997-3263 L255 McBride 250-569-2251 L226 Prince George 250-565-7311 Prince Rupert 250-622-6380 Quesnel 250-991-7571 Vanderhoof 250-567-6900 Valemount 250-566-9138 L228	250-692-2469 250-699-6292 250-996-2216 250-263-6086 250-997-3253 250-569-2232 250-565-6674 250-622-6391 250-991-7577 250-567-6170 250-566-9756
Vancouver Coastal Health	For more information on the VCH Public Health Prenatal Program: www.vch.ca/pregnancy	Clients can self-refer through the Prenatal Intake Line Toll free at 1-855-550-2229. Physicians and Midwives can refer by phone or by fax: Richmond 604-233-3150 Vancouver 604-301-2227 North Shore 604-983-6700 Squamish/Whistler/Pemberton 604-892-2293 Sunshine Coast (Gibsons/Sechelt) 604-886-5600 Powell River 604-485-3310	604-233-3198 604-321-2947 604-983-6883 604-892-2327 604-886-2250 604-485-3305