

Overview

The Community Healthcare and Resource Directory, CHARD, is a secure, web-based tool to assist GPs and their staff with patient referrals. CHARD is supported and funded by the General Practice Services Committee (GPSC), a joint initiative of the BCMA and the Ministry of Health Services, and is operated by HealthLink BC.

CHARD was launched in April, 2010, and all GPs in the province have been invited to use the service. Today CHARD covers the topics of mental health and addictions, and in the next year musculoskeletal and a series of other topics related to end-of-life will be added.

CHARD helps GPs and their staff to find referral resources for their patients. This improves GPs' practice efficiency by providing up-to-date contact information and referral forms, and opens up a wider range of referral options for patients.

Data available

CHARD provides GPs with a powerful search mechanism, which they can use to identify services and practitioners for patient referrals. HealthLink BC has built a database of these resources, and is positioned operationally to keep the information current.

Services include both publicly-funded services, such as those offered by health authorities and not-for-profit organizations, and privately-funded services. The services for each topic cover the range including detection and assessment, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and patient and family support.

Practitioners for mental health and addictions include psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical counselors, social workers and GPs who accept patient referrals. Lists practitioners are provided by the appropriate college or association, and detailed referral information is provided by the practitioners themselves.

Information about all the resources in the directory includes contact details, willingness to take new patients, areas of practice, and patient referral instructions and forms.

Expansion in 2010/11

We are currently adding the topics of musculoskeletal and end-of-life (cancer, cardiac, respiratory, renal, neuro-degenerative and palliative care). These topics will be made available on or before March 31, 2011.