

# Gender-Affirming Services in British Columbia



A resource from the Canadian Queer  
Medical Students Association, [cqmsa.org](http://cqmsa.org)



CQMSA  
ACÉQM



# FOREWORD

Gender-affirming medical services are available and accessible in British Columbia (B.C.). To begin the process of medical transition such as getting hormones, a patient will need to be followed by a family doctor, pediatrician, or endocrinologist. Alternatively, there are medical clinics who take in trans patients to begin or to continue transition-related care. A list of these clinics can be found in the next section entitled “Gender-Inclusive Clinics”. The following discussion only applies to people covered by the public provincial healthcare insurance, [Medical Services Plan \(MSP\)](#). If a patient has private insurance, the coverage of these services may differ.

**DISCLAIMER:** This document was created by the Canadian 2SLGBTQIA+ Medical Students’ Association (CQMSA) with the intention of helping medical providers in B.C. navigate and provide gender-affirming care. This document contains a collection of services and providers which are constantly changing, especially given the nature of the work and the increased stress and demand which community organizations have experienced due to COVID-19. We have done our best to provide up-to-date content but cannot promise the continued accessibility of some of these services. Please read with discretion. If you notice incorrect information, or you would like to notify us about different resources, please email: [info@cqmsa.org](mailto:info@cqmsa.org)

**We thank you for your efforts in providing appropriate and informed care!**  
– *The Canadian Queer Medical Students Association (CQMSA)*

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For the Canadian Queer Medical Students Association

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# PROVINCIAL HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

Residents of B.C. are insured by the *Medical Services Plan (MSP)*. You are eligible for medical coverage under MSP if you meet **all of the following criteria**:

1. Are a Canadian Citizen or lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence
2. Make your home in B.C.
3. Physically present in B.C. at least six months in a calendar year
  - a. If you are outside B.C. for vacation purposes only, then you are allowed an absence of seven months in a calendar year

For coverage if you are a dependent of an MSP beneficiary (spouse, child, post-secondary student), First Nations, Study and/or Work Permit Holder, Canadian Armed Forces members, or arriving under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) [please visit the MSP website](#).

If you are a new or returning B.C. resident, then you are required to complete a wait period before your MSP benefit coverage can begin. The wait period consists of the balance of the month in which residence in B.C. is established plus an additional two months. More information about the coverage wait period [can be found here](#).

You can [register online](#) for MSP. For more information about eligibility, coverage and other frequently asked questions visit the [Medical Services Plan for B.C. residents website](#).

# NAME AND GENDER MARKER CHANGES

## Changing Legal Identity Markers

Trans Care BC has created the Updating ID Guide, which includes step-by-step instructions on the process and required documents for changing provincial and federal government-issued ID documents. This guide can be found here: [Updating ID Guide](#)

When changing gender marker and/or name, make sure that this documentation is completed and processed before applying for a new copy of BC birth certificates, driver's license, or other forms of provincial ID (MSP, BC Services Card, BC identification card, etc.).

## Legal Change of Name

If you are 19 or older, and have been a BC resident for at least three months, complete the Application for Change of Name found [here](#).

Documents required to send with this application include:

- Your original birth certificate (if born in Canada)
- A certified copy of both sides of your Permanent Resident Card, or Canadian Citizenship Card/Certificate (if born outside Canada)
- A photocopy of government-issued picture ID (if born outside Canada)
- A photocopy of a receipt for fingerprinting, completed within the last 30 days
  - These can be completed at any RCMP-accredited fingerprinting company, or with Vancouver or Victoria police
  - If you prefer not to visit a police station for fingerprints, they can also be completed at a Commissionaires BC location: [Digital Fingerprinting and Criminal Record Checks | Commissionaires BC](#)
  - Fingerprints are collected as required by the Name Act, which requires fingerprints to be completed for a criminal record check. If you have a criminal record, the name change is noted within the Canadian Police Information Centre database.
  - For those in or near Vancouver, the [Catherine White Holman Wellness Centre](#) may be able to help with fingerprinting and may continue to offer subsidies for their fingerprinting fee.
- Any previous legal change of name documents
- Any marriage certificates
- A photocopy of government-issued photo ID
- The required fees
  - Name change: \$137
  - If your net income is around or below \$20,000, you can ask the Vital Statistics Agency for a fee waiver with your application, with a letter requesting the fee waiver and proof of income.

## **Legal Change of Name (cont.)**

If you are under 19 years old, and have been a BC resident for at least three months, a parent/guardian with custody must complete the Application For Change of Name on your behalf.

In this case, the required documents to submit are:

- The Application Form
- Child's original birth certificate, or certified copy of both sides of their Permanent Resident Card or Canadian Citizenship Card/Certificate AND the original birth certificate, or certified copy of both sides of the Permanent Resident Card or Canadian Citizenship Card/Certificate of the parent
- Any previous legal change of name documents
- Photocopy of government-issued photo ID
- Required fees - same as above
- Handwritten letter from child indicating why they want name change
- Signed consent from all other parents, court order, or a death certificate dispensing with another parent's consent

Instructions on where to send these documents are found on the application form. Once submitted, you will get a confirmation letter to update you that your application has been processed. Once completed, a Certificate of Name Change will be mailed to you.

## **Changing Gender Marker**

In BC, you can change your gender to M, F, or X.

If you are older than 19 years old and born in BC, complete the Application for Change of Gender Designation for Adults, found [here](#).

You will have to submit the following documents:

- The completed application form
- The original copy of the [Physician's or Psychologist's Confirmation of Change of Gender Designation](#)
- Any previously issued birth certificates in your possession
- The required fees (\$27)
  - If your net income is around or below \$20,000, you can ask the Vital Statistics Agency for a fee waiver with your application, with a letter requesting the fee waiver and proof of income.

If you are under 19 years old and born in BC, complete the Application for Change of Gender Designation (Minor) found [here](#).

In addition to the documents listed above, please also submit the following with your completed application:

- Proof of parentage and/or legal guardianship (i.e. birth certificate listing the parents and any order of guardianship)

Note that children and youth need the consent of all parents to change their gender.

## **Changing Gender Marker (cont.)**

Instructions on where to send these documents are found on the application form. Once submitted, you will get a confirmation letter to update you that your application has been processed.

If you were not born in BC but were born in Canada, you must update your gender marker in the province where you were born.

If you were born outside of Canada, you may be able to update your birth documents from your birth country. It is still possible to update your BC and Canadian documents even if you cannot change your birth certificate. Those seeking refugee status should seek legal aid before making any changes to identification documents, especially those from other countries.

## **Changing any Provincial Documents**

### *Birth Certificate*

- Proof of parentage and/or legal guardianship (i.e. birth certificate listing the parents and any order of guardianship)

### *Health Insurance BC Service Card*

- Send a copy of your new Birth Certificate to Health Insurance BC (if born in BC)
- Call Health Insurance BC to let them know you have changed your name or gender marker. They may ask for a copy proving this change to be sent through mail:
  - A copy of the completed Application for Change of Gender Designation AND
  - A copy of the Physician's or Psychologist's Confirmation of Change of Gender Designation
- A new Service Card will be sent via mail

### *Driver's License*

- Go to ICBC at a Driver's Services Centre to get a new BCID or BC Drivers License
- Take your Change of Name certificate, your new Birth Certificate (if applicable) and your new Service Card; if these aren't available, take the original Application for Change of Gender Designation and the original Physician's or Psychologist's Confirmation of Change of Gender Designation
- Remember to check the ICBC website for which pieces of identification are required, found [here](#)

### Some things to keep in mind:

- To be able to complete a name change on federal-issued government ID, a provincial legal change of name must be completed first
- Trans Care BC recommends not to combine the BCID or BC Drivers License and the BC Service Card into one card

# MEDICAL AND SURGICAL OPTIONS

## **Age of Medical Consent**

In British Columbia, the age of medical consent is the same as the age of majority (19 years old). However, like many Canadian provinces and territories, Manitoba follows a common law principle in which minors who are deemed capable of making informed decisions about their health may do so without the consent of a legal guardian. These laws are not written anywhere, and different providers can have varying definitions and requirements for their younger patients to be deemed capable of making these kinds of decisions.

Additionally, the type of medical treatment being requested - and the assumed risk of treatment - might change a provider's willingness to treat a minor without a guardian's consent. For example, if a minor wants to start birth control pills without parental consent and they can maturely understand the risks and proper use of the medication, a provider may be willing to prescribe these pills without involving any legal guardians. However, if the same minor decides that they would like to undergo a surgical procedure which carries more risk or long-term impact, like a hysterectomy, a provider may decide that the minor is not capable of making this decision alone. Because these decisions are at the discretion of each individual provider, it is recommended that you talk with your provider and get a clear understanding of what will be kept confidential/ what treatments you can consent to as a minor before starting any medical therapy. If you are concerned about your guardian learning about information you have disclosed/would like to disclose to a provider, we recommend you specify this to your provider.

## Medication

Hormonal therapy is an important part of gender-affirming care which promotes physiologic masculinization/feminization for people experiencing gender dysphoria. The decision to start hormonal therapy should be patient-centered and involves informed consent including discussion of the potential risks of starting and withholding treatment. Assessment by a psychologist or psychiatrist is not required for most people. Patients should be assessed by their primary care provider for their physical and psychological readiness for hormonal therapy prior to starting treatment, and this often takes place over several visits. If you are considering prescribing these medications in your clinical practice, we suggest reviewing the [WPATH Standards of Care](#) and [Rainbow Health Point-of-Care Guidelines](#) for assessing patient preparedness, safety, and clinical monitoring.

For transitioning individuals, the main bulk of hormone medications are: androgens (AFAB), estrogen (AMAB), and hormone blockers. The following medications are covered or partially covered under British Columbia's MSP, Fair Pharmacare, or other Pharmacare plans such as Plan C, or through Special Authority.

Information about coverage for gender-affirming care is based on: [Funding Coverage for Gender-Affirming Care](#) (October 2021 revision). The inclusion of individual providers and clinics is not meant to convey an endorsement or vetting of their trans-inclusivity by the CQMSA.



Coverage	Medication	Commercial Name	Type	Dosage Considerations
Regular Benefit	17β-Estradiol	Estrace	Tablet	Starting dose 1-2 mg daily Usual maintenance dose 4-8 mg daily Can be divided to twice per day
	Spironolactone		Tablet	Starting dose 50 mg daily Usual maintenance dose 200-300 mg daily Can be divided to twice per day
	Medroxyprogesterone	Provera	Tablet	Starting dose 5 mg daily Usual maintenance dose 10-15 mg twice daily
Special Authority	Leuprolide acetate/ Leuprorelin	Lupron	Injectable	Dosing available: 3.75 mg, 7.5 mg, 11.25 mg, 22.5 mg Monthly injection
	Estradiol	Estradot Estraderm	Patch*	Starting dose 50 mcg patch twice per week Usual maintenance dose 100-400 mcg twice per week
	Testosterone cypionate (100 mg/mL)	Taro-Testosterone Cypionate	Injectable	Starting dose 25 mg weekly Usual maintenance dose 50-100 mg weekly Biweekly injection may be tolerated in some individuals
	Testosterone enanthate (200 mg/mL)	Delatestryl	Injectable	Starting dose 25 mg weekly Usual maintenance dose 50-100 mg weekly Biweekly injection may be tolerated in some individuals
	Testosterone	Androderm	Patch	Starting dose 2.5 mg patch/24 hours Usual maintenance dose 5-10 mg/24 hours
	Testosterone	Androgel	Gel	Starting dose 2 pumps or 1 x 2.5 g packet (25 mg daily) Usual maintenance dose 4-8 pumps or 1-2 x 5 g packet (50-100 mg daily)
	Testosterone	Natesto	Nasal gel	Starting dose 1 pump daily (1 nostril only) Usual maintenance dose 2-4 pumps daily 1-2/ nostril)
	Cyproterone acetate**	Cyproterone	Tablet	Starting dose 12.5 mg daily Usual maintenance dose 12.5-50 mg daily
	Finasteride***	Finasteride	Tablet	2.5 mg every other day

\*Estradiol gel is also available through Special Authority

\*\*Eligible for Special Authority if spironolactone is contraindicated, not tolerated or ineffective

\*\*\*Eligible for Special Authority if needed to augment effect of primary anti-androgen (androgen blocker)

<b>Medical Procedure</b>	<b>Insurance Coverage</b>	<b>Criteria for Approval</b>	<b>Providers</b>
Gender-Affirming Products	No	N/A	Trans Care BC has a useful website for more information <a href="http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/transitioning/bind-pack-tuck-pad">http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/transitioning/bind-pack-tuck-pad</a>
Fertility Treatments	No	N/A	Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine <a href="https://pacificfertility.ca/">https://pacificfertility.ca/</a>
Electrolysis/Hair Removal	No	N/A	Trans Care website for more information: <a href="http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/transitioning/hair-remvl">http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/transitioning/hair-remvl</a>
Feminizing/Masculinizing Voice Therapy	No	N/A	Note: there is a free program for BC residents called Changing Keys - voice feminization training <a href="http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/transitioning/chng-speech">http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/transitioning/chng-speech</a>
Psychologist	No	N/A	<a href="https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/find_psychologist">https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/find_psychologist</a>
<b>Medications</b>			
Hormone Blockers	Yes	Covered with special authority.  For more information visit: <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/who-we-cover/fair-pharmacare-plan">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/who-we-cover/fair-pharmacare-plan</a>  <a href="http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/child-youth/affirmation-transition/medical-affirmation-transition/puberty-blockers-for-youth">http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/child-youth/affirmation-transition/medical-affirmation-transition/puberty-blockers-for-youth</a>	Please see primary care physician regarding this service  Depending on your situation, you may be referred to a specialty clinic
Hormone Replacement Therapy	Yes	Estradiol, spironolactone & medroxyprogesterone covered for patients on Fair Pharmacare.  Other HRT require special authority for treatment with clinical rationale.  For more information visit: <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/who-we-cover/fair-pharmacare-plan">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/who-we-cover/fair-pharmacare-plan</a>	Please see primary care physician regarding this service  Depending on your situation, you may be referred to a specialty clinic

<b>Medical Procedure</b>	<b>Insurance Coverage</b>	<b>Criteria for Approval</b>	<b>Providers</b>
<b>Surgeries</b>	For more information on coverage, please visit: <a href="http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/surgery/how-to-get-surgery/surgery-funding">http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/surgery/how-to-get-surgery/surgery-funding</a>		
	The criteria for all gender-affirming surgeries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent gender dysphoria</li> <li>• Capacity to consent to the procedure</li> <li>• Medical and mental health conditions are reasonable well controlled</li> <li>• Must be age of majority (19 years or older)<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>		
<b>AFAB Top Surgeries</b>			
Breast Reduction	Yes	One letter from a qualified assessor recommending surgery. Additional assessments may be required at discretion of surgeon	Gender Surgery Program BC <a href="http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457">http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457</a>  GRS, Montreal <a href="https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html">https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html</a>
Chest Masculinization	Yes		
Mastectomy	Yes		
<b>AFAB Bottom Surgeries - removal</b>			
Hysterectomy	Yes	May need one or two letters from a qualified assessor, depending on the surgeon. Additional assessments may be required at the discretion of the surgeon.	Referral to obstetrician or gynecologist by primary care provider
Oophorectomy	Yes	12 continuous months of hormone therapy (unless not indicated).  Note: Living in a gender role congruent with your gender identity is not required	
<b>AFAB Bottom Surgeries - construction</b>			
Erectile/Testicular Implants	Yes	Must meet WPATH criteria for referral to Gender Surgery Program BC, or GRS (Montreal)	Gender Surgery Program BC <a href="http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457">http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457</a>  GRS, Montreal <a href="https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html">https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html</a>
Metoidioplasty	Yes	2 letters from qualified assessors recommending surgery. Additional assessments at the discretion of surgeon	
Phalloplasty	Yes	12 continuous months of hormone therapy (unless hormones are not indicated for you)  12 continuous months of living in a gender role congruent with your gender identity	

1. Upper body surgeries, such as chest masculinization of breast construction, can sometimes be performed before age 19.

<b>Medical Procedure</b>	<b>Insurance Coverage</b>	<b>Criteria for Approval</b>	<b>Providers</b>
<b>AMAB Facial Surgeries</b>			
Facial Feminization Surgery	No	N/A	GRS, Montreal <a href="https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html">https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html</a>
Tracheal Shaving	No	N/A	
<b>AFAB Bottom Surgeries - removal</b>			
Breast Augmentation	Variable	<p>Only publicly funded by MSP in certain circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have been on hormones for at least 18 months (unless clinically unable to) AND</li> <li>• Have little to no breast growth, and/or</li> <li>• Significant asymmetric growth as determined by plastic surgeon</li> </ul> <p>1 letter from a qualified assessor that recommends surgery</p> <p>Must be seen by a plastic surgeon who will apply to MSP for funding</p>	<p>Gender Surgery Program BC <a href="http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457">http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457</a></p> <p>GRS, Montreal <a href="https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html">https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html</a></p>
<b>AMAB Bottom Surgeries - removal</b>			
Orchidectomy	Yes	<p>May require one or two letters from a qualified assessor recommending surgery. Additional assessments may be required at the discretion of the surgeon</p> <p>Must also have been on 12 continuous months of hormone therapy as appropriate to your gender goals (unless hormones are not indicated)</p> <p>Note: Living in a gender role congruent with your gender identity is not required</p>	<p>Referral to urologist by primary care physician</p> <p>Gender Surgery Program BC <a href="http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457">http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457</a></p> <p>GRS, Montreal <a href="https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html">https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html</a></p>
Penectomy	<p>Stand-alone - typically not covered in BC centers</p> <p>Covered if performed as part of a penile inversion vaginoplasty</p>	<p>Same criteria as vaginoplasty if performed as part of a penile inversion vaginoplasty - see Vaginoplasty criteria</p> <p>Considered an alternative procedure and it's recommended to get a referral from your GP to discuss options with your local program</p>	<p>GRS, Montreal <a href="https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html">https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html</a></p>



Medical Procedure	Insurance Coverage	Criteria for Approval	Providers
<b>AMAB Bottom Surgeries - construction</b>			
Cliteroplasty	Part of vaginoplasty	2 letters from qualified assessors recommending surgery. Additional assessments at the discretion of surgeon	
Labiaplasty	Same as vulvoplasty	12 months continuous use of hormone therapy as appropriate to your gender goals (unless not indicated)	GRS, Montreal <a href="https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html">https://www.grsmontreal.com/en/home.html</a>
Vaginoplasty	Yes	12 continuous months of living in a gender role congruent with your gender identity	Gender Surgery Program BC <a href="http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457">http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1457</a>
Vulvoplasty	Yes	See link for full criteria: <a href="https://bcmj.org/sites/default/files/BCMJ_Vol64_No1-surgical_web_Table.jpg">https://bcmj.org/sites/default/files/BCMJ_Vol64_No1-surgical_web_Table.jpg</a>	

## Travel Assistance for Medically Necessary Travel

Program	Details of assistance
Provincial travel assistance programs	<p><i>MSP Travel Assistance Program (TAP)</i> is an option for assistance with transportation costs for eligible BC residents traveling for services not available in their own community. Links below are specific for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within province Medical Transportation Assistance</li> <li>• Non-Local Medical Transportation Assistance</li> </ul> <p>Hope Air is a charity that provides free flights for financially disadvantaged Canadians for medically necessary travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should your patient require assistance with flight expenses please recommend they apply by filling in the online application at <a href="http://www.hopeair.ca">www.hopeair.ca</a></li> <li>• In some cases, Hope Air will also cover the costs for a companion to travel with the patient if deemed medically necessary. Hope Air will contact you to verify some details related to the patient's travel needs.</li> </ul>
Accommodation assistance	<p>To find available hotels that offer reduced accommodation prices for medical patients you can use the search function on this page <a href="http://csa.pss.gov.bc.ca/medicaltravel/">http://csa.pss.gov.bc.ca/medicaltravel/</a>. If you select the name of the city you need to stay in as the destination and select your estimated arrival date this website will show available hotel listings.</p>
Regional ground travel assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Northern Health Connections Bus</i>: heavily subsidized bus travel for people living in Northern BC for medically necessary travel. <a href="https://nhconnections.ca/">https://nhconnections.ca/</a></li> <li>• <i>Interior Health Connections</i>: heavily subsidized bus travel for people living in Northern BC for medically necessary travel. <a href="https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourStay/GettingThere/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourStay/GettingThere/Pages/default.aspx</a></li> <li>• <i>Wheels for Wellness (Vancouver Island)</i>: Registered charity that provides by donation transportation for all non-emergency, medically necessary appointments: <a href="http://www.wheelsforwellness.com/">http://www.wheelsforwellness.com/</a></li> </ul>

Trans Care BC released a self-advocacy guide on managing referrals for patients, which can be found here: [http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/Documents/HealthProf/Self-advocacy\\_in\\_health\\_care.pdf](http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/Documents/HealthProf/Self-advocacy_in_health_care.pdf)

# GENDER-AFFIRMING SERVICES

## **BC Children's Hospital's Gender Clinic**

4480 Oak Street

Room K2-125 Children's Ambulatory Care Building

Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4

Phone: 604-875-2117

<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/our-services/clinics/gender>

- Endocrinologist, Endocrine Nurses and Social Workers work with community mental health professionals (Psychiatrist and Psychologist), Trans Care BC and BC Transgender Clinical Care Group
- Referring physician can be family physician, pediatrician or psychiatrist, or nurse practitioner. Referrals are accepted up to patient's 17th birthday. Wait times depend on goals and needs but they aim to see youths within 4-6 months of referral.

## **Gender Surgery Clinic at Vancouver General Hospital - Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre**

2775 Laurel Street

Station 4A 7th Floor, DHCC

Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9

Phone: 604-875-5060

[http://www.vch.ca/locations-services/result?res\\_id=1457](http://www.vch.ca/locations-services/result?res_id=1457)

- Multidisciplinary team of health care providers and surgical specialists performing feminizing and masculinizing procedures consistent with guidelines from World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH)
- Referring physician sends referral and two completed readiness assessment to Gender Surgery Program's clinic (breast construction and mastectomy referrals go through central waitlist at Trans Care BC)

## **Trans Specialty Care at Three Bridges Community Health Centre**

1128 Hornby Street

Vancouver, BC V6Z 2L4

Phone: 604-331-8901

[http://www.vch.ca/Pages/Contact-the-Trans-Specialty-Care-Program.aspx?res\\_id=1342](http://www.vch.ca/Pages/Contact-the-Trans-Specialty-Care-Program.aspx?res_id=1342)

- Hormone initiation and stabilization, surgical care planning and referrals, pre-operative information and post-operative nursing care
- Self-referral for people 15 or older in VCH area, requires MSP coverage or interim federal health coverage to access treatment services

## Gender-Inclusive Clinics

### **Island Sexual Health: Community Health Centre (Victoria)**

#101-3960 Quadra Street  
Victoria, BC V8X 4A3  
Phone: 250-592-3479

- Pro-choice and comprehensive sexual health clinics, education programs, and products for people of all genders, orientations, abilities, and ages in Greater Victoria

### **Outreach Urban Health Centre (Kelowna)**

1649 Pandosy Street  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1P6

- Primary health care in downtown Kelowna with services for harm reduction, addiction support, social work support, psychiatric support
- Other resources in Interior Health: <http://kelowna.bctransresources.ca/>

### **Prism Service at Three Bridges Community Health Centre (Vancouver)**

1128 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2L4  
Phone: 604-331-8906, email: [prism@vch.ca](mailto:prism@vch.ca)

- Vancouver Coastal Health's clinical, education, information and referral service for LGBTQ2S communities

### **Qmunity (Vancouver)**

1170 Bute Street  
Vancouver, BC V6E 1Z6  
Phone: 604-684-5307

- Trans ID clinic with notarial, administrative and emotional support to lower-income folks who require assistance with name and gender marker change processes

### **Foundry North Shore (North & West Vancouver)**

- Offers young people 12-24 access to mental health and substance use support, primary care, peer support and social services
- They are able to do hormone assessments for youth under 24
- <https://foundrybc.ca/northshore/>

## **Community Groups, Social Networking, and Patient Navigators**

### **Peer Support Directory (Compiled by Trans Care BC)**

- A list of peer support organizations across BC
- <http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/peer-community-support/srvc-directory>

### **Peer Support and Community Grants**

- Peer support groups created with the help of support team at Trans Care BC
- Funding to provide for capacity-building support groups in communities throughout BC

### **PeerNetBC**

- Non-profit organization that provides training, resources and support to peer-led initiatives and support groups with in-house workshops and create custom curriculum

### **Qmunity**

- Non-profit organization based in Vancouver that works to improve queer, trans, Two-Spirit lives with free counselling, access to gender-affirming chestwear, youth one-on-one support, support groups, special events, education resources.
- <https://qmunity.ca/>

### **Trans Care BC System Navigators Service**

- Trans Care BC is currently completing a pilot project to increase access and the number of healthcare providers for transgender healthcare. As this program is being implemented, youth and families can connect with system navigators at Trans Care BC who can be reached by email, phone, or by an appointment basis. Please see the Contact Us page to learn more information
- More information: <http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/child-youth/affirmation-transition/navigating-system-of-care-in-bc>
- To contact: <http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/about/contact>

### **2 Spirits of BC**

- Website is provided by the [Four Feathers Society](#)
- The society organizes events for the 2 Spirit people living in British Columbia

### **UBC Pride Collective Gender Empowerment Store**

- The GES provides free gender-affirming products that aren't safely or affordably accessible to people. Gender affirming gear include but are not limited to packers, binders, padding, gaffs, and boxers.
- <https://www.prideubc.com/gender-empowerment-store>



## **Adapting Clinical Care to Those in Transition (Resources from Trans Care BC)**

[Gender Inclusive Language](#)

[Gender-affirming Care for Trans, Two-Spirit, and  
Gender Diverse Patients in BC: A Primary Care Toolkit](#)

Sample questions for patients seeking hormone therapy:  
[Asking about gender identity and gender-affirming goals](#)

[Clinical Resources](#)

Gender-affirming primary care courses from UBC:  
[Gender-Affirming Primary Care](#)

### **Medical Services:**

[Endocrine Therapy for Transgender Adults in British Columbia:  
Suggested Guidelines \(2015\)](#)

[Surgical pathways for gender-affirming procedures](#)

[Funding Coverage for Gender-Affirming Care](#)