



Dear Specialist colleagues:

Consultant Specialists of BC (cSBC) is the only representative body dedicated to the collective voice of Specialists. Your dues go to advocate for you and your patients.

In 2022, we undertook a **Waitlist Survey** which quantified the significant challenges our patients face accessing Specialist care. Our **Call for Patient Care and Physician Stories** showed how barriers to Specialty care delivery have impacted patients. Specialists detailed concerns with their current practice environment, including:

- Lack of recognition that the issues affecting Primary Care also impact Specialty Care
- The need for immediate support of Specialist outpatient practices which represent the infrastructure of consultative Specialist care in BC
- Specialist consultation waitlists equivalent in magnitude to Primary Care unattached patients
- Ever-growing workload faced by APP Specialists with fixed contract income
- The burden of after-hours and unpaid administrative work
- Increasing complexity of patients
- Pervasive Specialist burnout and moral distress at not being able to help patients
- Mounting bureaucracy of Pharmacare and Special Authority approval
- Disenfranchisement and marginalization of Specialists
- Shortage of Specialist training positions and Specialist resources to serve the populace

We have advocated to try to **ensure balanced benefit** to both Specialists and Family Physicians within the Physician Master Agreement and outside it.

We collaborated with grassroots Specialists to produce an **open letter to the Minister of Health** about the crisis in Specialty patient care. This letter is posted on the cSBC website and has now accrued more than 300 signatures. [Please sign here](#) if you haven't already. As of this writing, meetings with government in the early fall had just commenced.

cSBC developed a *Collaborative Care Referral* **proposal to replace the outdated referral system** which would reflect the collaborative Specialist care we provide BC's most complex patients.

We were the first to advocate for the billing changes during COVID, and now for **Telehealth codes to remain in place** and balance in-person care to provide adequate funding for and access to Specialty patient care.

Make the Specialist Voice Heard by Joining Consultant Specialists of BC for 2023

Go to <https://doctorsofbc.ca/account/sections> Scroll down to **Consultant Specialists of BC**, click on the + sign, choose box for regular \$450; first-year practice/disabled/parental leave \$225; OR student/resident/retired free. Click **JOIN SELECTED SECTIONS AND SOCIETIES** to pay. Thank you!

~ Dr Chris Hoag, President

Want to hear more about what Consultant Specialists of BC does for you?
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