



## Memorandum

Ministry of Health  
Health Sector Workforce and  
Beneficiary Services Division  
Primary Care Division

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**Date:** February 18, 2021

**To:** Health Authorities, Divisions of Family Practice

**Re:** Update on approvals for the New to Practice contract approvals

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In October 2020, the Ministry of Health introduced two new compensation options for fee-for-service family physicians: the Group Contract for Practising Full-Service Family Physicians and the New to Practice (NTP) Family Physician contract. These contracts help provide physicians with greater freedom of choice in the way they practice and support Primary Care Network (PCN) partners in ensuring patients have access to timely, comprehensive and coordinated team-based care.

We have received a number of inquiries from physicians, health authorities and divisions of family practice seeking more information on the approval process for accessing NTP contracts and funding, both within and outside of the established service planning process for PCNs. With this in mind, we wanted to provide more clarity on the process and details on who you should contact for further information about the process and eligibility.

### **Family physician NTP process for requests in PCN communities in implementation**

PCN funding and their NTP contact allocations are approved by the Ministry. At the local level, the PCN determines the process for assigning and approving NTP contracts, developing and implementing the recruitment process, and assessing physician interest.

PCNs may also be approached by physicians and clinics interested in accessing NTP contracts outside their established plan/processes. PCNs should assess these requests/opportunities with the lens of proactively addressing the community's attachment gap.

On a case-by-case basis, the Ministry may consider approving additional NTP contracts over and above PCN service plan, and will consult with the PCN and/or the CSC prior to a final Ministry decision. This will allow the Province to apply additional discretion around PCN budget pressures and, if approved, the Ministry will manage these pressures provincially.

If NTP contracts are fully assigned (and may or may not have been filled) or have not been planned within the implementation schedule for the PCN, the PCN should contact their Ministry Regional Director or GPSC Transformation Partners to assess the need and support next steps (this may include a change request to adjust implementation plan to support recruitment). Alternatively, the PCN could also put the family physician in contact with the primary care Regional Director for their area, or GPSC Transformation Partners, to assist with the assessment and next step support (see table below with contact information).

If an NTP contact is approved by a PCN, the PCN partners can work directly with their health authority's medical affairs department to initiate the contract.

### Contact List

Region	Ministry of Health, Regional Director, Primary Care Division	GPSC Transformation Partner
Fraser	Anita Sharma <a href="mailto:Anita.Sharma@gov.bc.ca">Anita.Sharma@gov.bc.ca</a>	Kathryn Wozny <a href="mailto:kwozny@doctorsofbc.ca">kwozny@doctorsofbc.ca</a>
Interior	Nick Manzella <a href="mailto:Nick.Manzella@gov.bc.ca">Nick.Manzella@gov.bc.ca</a>	Robin Watt <a href="mailto:rwatt@doctorsofbc.ca">rwatt@doctorsofbc.ca</a>
Island	Emma Isaac <a href="mailto:Emma.Isaac@gov.bc.ca">Emma.Isaac@gov.bc.ca</a>	Angela Thachuk <a href="mailto:Athachuk@doctorsofbc.ca">Athachuk@doctorsofbc.ca</a>
Northern	Cheryl Martin <a href="mailto:Cheryl.Martin@gov.bc.ca">Cheryl.Martin@gov.bc.ca</a>	Stacey Tyers <a href="mailto:styers@doctorsofbc.ca">styers@doctorsofbc.ca</a>
Vancouver	Jennifer Gough <a href="mailto:Jennifer.Gough@gov.bc.ca">Jennifer.Gough@gov.bc.ca</a>	Marina McBride, <a href="mailto:mmcbride@doctorsofbc.ca">mmcbride@doctorsofbc.ca</a>

### **Family physician NTP approval process for requests in communities without a PCN (early draw)**

If a family physician is interested in moving to a NTP contract in a community that does not yet have a PCN in implementation, they should be directed to their local Division of Family Practice to link with the Collaborative Services Committee (CSC) or equivalent local collaborative table to assist with next steps.

The CSC or equivalent local collaborative table must provide a written submission and endorsement of the request to the Ministry of Health; please submit this request to the Regional Director identified in the table above for your area.

The Ministry will consider the following criteria in their decision:

- CSC or equivalent local collaborative table is aware of, and supportive of, the request;
- There is space available to add a family physician to the practice;
- The family physicians/ nurse practitioners in the practice are supportive of the request;

- There is understanding that the family physician will be doing net new attachment, in alignment with the contract;
- There is sufficient need for primary care attachment in the geography to add a family physician;
- The family physician and community understand that the physician will be expected to participate in the PCN if a PCN is established; and,
- The family physician and community understand that the attachment gap covered by the NTP contract for the physician will be part of the future PCN plan, if a PCN is established.

**For more information on the contracts, please visit:**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/physician-compensation>

If family physicians are unclear on their local processes, we recommend they connect with their Ministry Regional Director or GPSC Transformation Partners for more information. Please see the contact table above for your region.

**PCN Webinars**

GPSC is in the process of developing a series of engagement sessions to answer any additional questions you may have, starting with a webinar in early March for PCN communities in implementation. Invitations will follow for this and future engagements as they are scheduled.

Thank you for your interest in the contract process and for everything you are doing to support patients and providers.

Sincerely,



Mark Armitage  
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Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division  
Ministry of Health



Ted Patterson  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Primary Care Division  
Ministry of Health