

Welcome to the Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic at the Vancouver General Hospital

Your doctor has referred you to the Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic at the Vancouver General Hospital. Many people who are seen in the PH clinic have never heard of pulmonary hypertension and do not know what it is. Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) is a disease of the vessels that carry blood from the right side of the heart to the left side of the heart. In PAH the blood vessels tighten and become narrowed making it more difficult for the heart to pump blood through the lungs.

This can eventually lead to strain on the heart and difficulty circulating blood throughout the entire body. The purpose of your referral is to determine if you have PAH and if so, whether there is an underlying cause and what treatment options are appropriate for you. It may take more than one clinic visit and a number of tests to answer these questions.

In preparation for your visit to the PH clinic please complete the attached questionnaire. This questionnaire is very detailed and will take a bit of time and consideration to complete. It is important that you complete this form to the best of your ability so that the PH team can accurately assess your medical circumstances and make appropriate recommendation regarding your care. If you have difficulty reading or writing in English please consider recruiting the assistance of a family member or friend to complete the form.

If English is not your first language and you feel that you may have difficulty communicating in a medical interview conducted in English we would encourage you to recruit a family member or friend that is able to translate to attend your clinic visit with you.

Please bring current list of your medication with you with you to your clinic appointments.

Please note that the PH clinic at the Vancouver General Hospital and the PH physicians are affiliated with the University of British Columbia and therefore are part of the medical teaching system.

Therefore you may be seen by a sub-specialty fellow, medical resident, medical student, or other allied health professionals before or with the attending PH physician.

Due to the fact that the PH clinic is a teaching facility, and the reality that pulmonary hypertension is a serious and complex disease wherein unexpected problems can arise, please be prepared to expect delays in the clinic schedule. We strive to be respectful of you time and keep the clinic running on time but also ask your patience and understanding on this matter.

Care in the PH clinic is multi-disciplinary and a number of physicians and allied health professionals are involved in optimizing your care. Therefore, to aid in your identification we will take a digital photograph of you at the time of your first visit to the PH clinic. This photograph will become part of you medical chart and will be held in the same confidence as all your personal information.

Dr John Swiston MD FRCPC
Director, VGH Pulmonary Hypertension Program