

Regional Health Authorities

British Columbia's health structure is governed through the integration of the Ministry of Health Services, the Provincial Health Services Authority, five Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) and sixteen health service delivery areas. This system is intended to ensure that health care is effectively and efficiently planned, delivered, monitored and evaluated on behalf of all B.C. residents.

The Ministry of Health Services is responsible for the development of Provincial goals and standards, accountability of the health authorities and ensuring appropriate Province-wide health outcomes. The Provincial Health Services Authority, among other responsibilities, works with the five RHAs to plan and coordinate the delivery of Provincial programs and highly specialized health care services, such as cardiac care and transplants.

The RHAs are primarily responsible for identifying regional health needs, planning appropriate programs and services and ensuring programs and services are properly funded. Within the RHAs, senior staff of the sixteen health service delivery areas report to the regions and are responsible for managing the delivery of health services in their respective areas, meeting the performance objectives set by their regions, ensuring community input into health service planning and evaluation for their areas and evaluating health status and plan performance.

For seniors and families investigating home support and home care services, or long-term care residences, the RHAs should be the first point of contact for advice, guidance and information about accessing these services and residences. The RHAs provide a number of specific and direct services relating to licensing, inspection, and operation of long-term care residences. Case managers at the RHAs undertake assessments to determine if an individual needs support at home, in a supportive living environment such as an assisted living residence, or in a long-term care residence. RHAs and their case managers also coordinate waiting lists for long-term care residences and facilitate placement.

The map on page XX illustrates the geographic areas covered by the five RHAs in B.C. and below is contact information for each:

Northern Health Authority
Phone: (250) 565-2649
Web: www.northernhealth.ca

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Phone: (604) 736-2033
Web: www.van Coastalhealth.ca

Interior Health Authority
Phone: (250) 862-4200
Web: www.interiorhealth.ca

Fraser Health Authority
Phone: (604) 587-4600
Web: www.fraserhealth.ca

Vancouver Island Health Authority
Phone: (250) 370-8699
Web: www.viha.ca

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