



October 23, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The threat of an H1N1 pandemic and the associated critical care implications has consumed a great deal of our time. There is a huge body of work being developed around this problem, but I believe that the amount of information and guidance that has reached the “on the ground” physician has been somewhat variable. The BCSCCM is attempting to deal with this issue in several ways:

**September Video and Teleconference – H1N1**

There was excellent attendance at this meeting, lead by Drs Steve Reynolds and Liz Bryce. This was our first attempt to place the conference slides online, and it was a “learning experience”.

**Grand Rounds – H1N1**

Given the positive response to this event, we are organizing a Grand Rounds through the UBC Department of Medicine on the same topic. The date is to be confirmed, but we will attempt to allow video and teleconferencing again. We will update you with details as soon as they are available

**Website – H1N1**

We have updated the BCSCCM website significantly, and added numerous H1N1 resources. See below for further details

**Advocacy and Political Involvement – H1N1**

The BCSCCM has been extensively involved in discussions with the Ministry of Health over the modeling of and planning for a possible “surge” in influenza cases this winter. I do believe that the views and concerns of frontline physicians have been well represented.

In addition to our efforts around H1N1, there are several specific issues that we would like to bring to your attention.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM will occur during the Whistler Critical Care Conference (March 17-20, 2010). The conference website is [www.canadiancriticalcare.ca](http://www.canadiancriticalcare.ca). Elections for all positions within the BCSCCM executive will occur.

### **Retroactive and Forward Fee Increases**

As we notified you in our last letter, we have secured a retroactive fee increase for the CCM fee codes as well as fee increases for the next 2 years. The final increase will occur in April 2010.

### **MSP Preamble Discussions**

We met with a consultant from Medical Services Plan to discuss altering the preamble to the critical care section of the Fee Guide. In accordance with issues brought to us by the BCSCCM membership, we requested revisions around intra-hospital transfers, continuous renal replacement therapy and total parenteral nutrition. Our submissions were supported by the consultant in his presentation to the BCMA. These are currently with the Ministry, who will attempt to calculate the feasibility and economic impact prior to any further discussions. Given the difficult financial times currently faced by the provincial government, the Executive thinks it unlikely that there will be quick movement on this file.

### **New Fee Proposals**

Critical Care Medicine is now a separate specialty with the Society of Specialist Physicians and Surgeons and is recognized as such by MSP. We are required to develop our own consultation fees which may be billed by all physicians recognized by MSP/BC College as specialists in Critical Care Medicine. We have developed a Consult Fee, a Repeat Consult Fee and a Limited Consult Fee which parallel the analogous Internal Medicine Codes. Additionally, we are proposing an "End of Life/Second Opinion" fee which will allow for a detailed second opinion in difficult ethical situations.

### **Website**

I have worked extensively to update our society website ([www.bcscm.ca](http://www.bcscm.ca)). There is a great deal of updated content. Specifically, I have created a password protected Members Area that contains an extensive collection of guidelines and protocols relevant to critical care practice. I believe that there is a great deal of valuable information that can be shared in this area. If you have protocols or guidelines that you are willing to share with your colleagues, please forward them to me, and I will post them. I have also posted the slides from our past video/teleconferences here, as well as the minutes of past Executive Meetings and AGMs. I hope that we will be able to post the slides and materials for future conferences here in advance, so that more remote members can use this during live conferences.

As noted the Members Area is password protected. The current user name is [medicine](#) and the current password is [bc123](#).

**Journal Club**

The next BCSCCM Journal Club is on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2009. Location TBD (Vancouver area). Please contact [Andrea.Lovely@vch.ca](mailto:Andrea.Lovely@vch.ca) to RSVP.

**Member Input and Guidance**

If there are issues that you feel should be addressed as group, or have interest in a specific topic that you would like to see advanced, please let us know. We exist to further the interests of all BC critical care physicians and want your input and guidance as we go forward. Natuarlly, we may volunteer you to help!

Sincerely,

William Henderson, MD, FRCPC  
President and Chair  
BC Society of Critical Care Medicine