

Position: Summer Intern

Casual, Duncan BC

Project Name: Improving Access & Positive Patient Experience with Post Stroke Care in the Cowichan Valley: First Steps

Location: Cowichan District Hospital (3045 Gibbins Rd, Duncan, BC V9L 1E5).

Time Commitment: Duration: June 3 – August 30, 2019 (start date to be determined with student). Maximum 225 total hours. Approximately 20 hours per week for 11 weeks – we are open to what works for the student.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Presently, CDH patients are either: discharged on their own accord to follow up in Victoria at the Stroke Clinic, they are kept in hospital and treated medically or they transported directly to Victoria General at the time of the incident for EVT (endo vascular treatment) and/or a higher level of neurological care. The purpose of the project is to:

1. Compare what happens to non-admitted stroke patients at the Cowichan District Hospital compared with best practice recommendations in the Canadian Stroke Best Practice Guidelines.
2. Compare the recommendations for outpatient therapy for stroke patients via the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation with what patient's receiver at CDH – how do the differences affect the patient's prognosis and well being?
3. Conduct patient and family member interviews to map their lived experiences.
4. Outline how a person's post stroke care in Victoria differs from that of CDH.

Our overarching goal/aim is to improve the availability and equity of services to the patients in the Cowichan Valley by helping to coordinate and access the appropriate care post discharge.

The summer intern would be responsible for helping the CDH team:

- Build a qualitative survey for delivery to all stroke patients (and their caregivers) discharged in the last two years and/or who are presently in the hospital.
 - The focus of the survey will be to learn more about access to post stroke care in the Cowichan Valley and their personal experiences – were their needs met with Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language and Pathology, Drivers' assessments, Mental Health groups, follow up at intervals post stroke etc.
- Develop an appropriate tool for interviewing the patients and their families and review the appropriate patients for interview and obtain consent for contacting.

- Compile any/all considerations regarding how best to improve the access to post stroke care moving forward.
- Compile a literature review to support the known best practices of post stroke care as per the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Stroke Best Practice Guidelines and highlight deviations from best practice in the Cowichan Valley.
- Compile all findings and aggregated results to outline the present deficiencies for presentation as a team to the Executive Leadership Team.
- Complete a grant funding application at the end of the summer.
- Write a brief analysis piece combining the findings for submission for the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation, as well as within the Island Health Weekly.
- Submit findings and biography of the student to the Cowichan Cares Newsletter.
- Define and develop the vision of the best post stroke care in the Cowichan Valley moving forward.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

This internship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. The student should have the ability to use Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Prezi etc. and enjoy interacting with patients and their family members; tactfully interviewing them for information and their perspective.

Send resume and cover letter in a single PDF document by Monday, May 6, 2019 to:

learning@bcpsqc.ca

Please indicate the project name(s) that you would like to be considered for when applying.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.