

RE: Vancouver sun queries

Tuesday, March 5, 2013
11:20 AM

Subject	RE: Vancouver sun queries
From	Ja bs, Ryan GCPE:EX
To	'Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun)'
Cc	May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Sent	Tuesday, January 22, 2013 10:57 AM

Hi Pamela,

As I noted in my email yesterday, it's quite complicated... so sorry about the long winded response. When you get a second to read it over, feel free to give me a call to discuss.

This CIHI report shows that within Canada, B.C. has competitive compensation rates, and this competitive environment is producing results – namely British Columbia continues to have a higher supply of physicians per person when compared to the Canadian average.

The most recent agreement reached with the BCMA this last summer recognizes the necessity to remain fiscally prudent while also continuing to respect and value the important services that physicians provide. Physicians are key players in helping British Columbians have some of the best health outcomes in the country.

The report notes that B.C. had the 2nd best rate of physicians per person in 2010/11. For every 714 residents, there is one doctor, much better than the Canadian average of one doctor per 750 people. (*page 37, Table A.8.1*)

In terms of payments per service (defined by CIHI as all consultations, visits and procedures done by a physician) and procedures (defined by CIHI as all surgery, surgical assistance, anesthesia, and diagnostic/therapeutic services and miscellaneous services done by a physician) – B.C. ranks near the top, for example:

- Family Medicine—Cost per Service by National Grouping System (NGS) Category and Province/Territory, 2010–2011 (*Table B.3.1 page 84*)
 - BC: Cost per procedures: \$55.33 (2nd highest) – Canadian average \$37.00 (Quebec highest at \$107.54)
 - BC: Cost per services: \$40.97 (3rd highest) – Canadian average \$39.85 (Saskatchewan highest at \$54.13)
- Medical Specialists—Cost per Service by NGS Category and Province/Territory, 2010–2011 (*Table B.3.2 page 85*)
 - BC: Cost per procedure: \$68.63 (2nd highest) – Canadian average \$61.28 (NS highest at \$87.52)
 - BC: Cost per service: \$84.85 (highest) – Canadian average \$68.43.
- Surgical Specialists—Cost per Service by NGS Category and Province/Territory, 2010–2011 (*Table B.3.10 page 93*)
 - BC: Cost per procedure: \$129.54 (4th highest) – Canadian average \$133.67 (Alberta highest at \$168.13)
 - BC: Cost per service: \$97.28 (3rd highest) – Canadian average: \$82.73 (Alberta highest at \$113.00)
- Total Specialists—Cost per Service by NGS Category and Province/Territory, 2010–2011 (*Table B.3.20 page 103*)
 - BC: Cost per procedure: \$100.83 (3rd highest) – Canadian average \$91.08 (Alberta highest at \$117.23)
 - BC: Cost per service: \$90.55 (2nd highest) – Canadian average \$74.17 (Alberta highest at \$95.51)
- Total Physicians—Cost per Service by NGS Category and Province/Territory 2010–2011 (*Table B.3.21*)

page 104)

- BC: Cost per procedure: \$79.80 (3rd highest) – Canadian average \$68.35 (Quebec Highest at \$101.63)
- BC: Cost per service: \$55.77 (3rd highest) – Canadian average \$53.95 (Alberta highest at \$66.98)

As you can see from the statistics above – the compensation per service that B.C. pays is competitive. This was something we recognized when we negotiated our new Physician Master Agreement in 2012. The focus in that agreement was on improving patient access to family physicians – especially in rural and remote areas – enhancing care for patients with chronic conditions, and balancing the difficult financial and economical realities we are in.

We have been working collaboratively with the BCMA, in difficult economic times, to ensure the best value for taxpayer dollars. For example, noting the advances in the speed and safety of cataract surgery, the BCMA and Ministry agreed on a 21.3 percent reduction for the total fee for that procedure. We will continue to work with the BCMA within the Physician Master agreement to issues related to fees.

Take care,
Ryan Jabs
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From: Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:PFayerman@vancouver.sun.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 4:43 PM
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Cc: May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Subject: Vancouver sun queries

Hi guys,
Just wondering if the govt has a response to the national physician database (CIHI) report embargoed to noon our time tomorrow. It essentially shows that BC spending has slowed (good for taxpayers) and that doctors here are paid a little less than national average. So is that a result of a concerted effort by govt to slow such spending after a decade of much higher fee increases?

PAMELA FAYERMAN

Vancouver Sun Medical/Health Issues Reporter
#1 - 200 Granville Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 3N3
Phone 604-605-2173

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RE: Are you both sending me some comments for the doctor fee report story?

Tuesday, March 5, 2013
11:21 AM

Subject	RE: Are you both sending me some comments for the doctor fee report story?
From	Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
To	'Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun)'
Sent	Tuesday, January 22, 2013 10:48 AM

I'll have something to you shortly...

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From: Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:PFayerman@vancouversun.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2013 10:48 AM
To: Shore, Sharon
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: Are you both sending me some comments for the doctor fee report story?

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Subject	RE: Vancouver sun queries
From	Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
To	'Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun)'
Cc	May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Sent	Monday, January 21, 2013 5:23 PM

Hi Pamela,

Quite likely it has more to do with having more doctors practicing in B.C., which spreads the total dollars around and lowers the average, rather than a concerted effort to slow spending on physician services during these years. (2010/11 was under our previous BCMA agreement.)

According to the report, year-to-year funding was still up over \$100 million more between 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, which is significant.

In the more recent 2012 agreement, we worked hard to get an agreement that was fair to physicians added more services for a growing and aging population, but respected the current fiscal situation we are in. However, this wouldn't be reflected in this CIHI report.

I can't get you more of an official statement from the ministry in the morning, if you'd like.

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Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 4:43 PM
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Cc: May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Subject: Vancouver sun queries

Hi guys,

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RE: comment from govt on Day lawsuit

Tuesday, March 5, 2013
11:21 AM

Subject	RE: comment from govt on Day lawsuit
From	Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
To	'Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun)'
Sent	Tuesday, January 15, 2013 3:55 PM

Hi Pamela,

We can't speak to your specific questions, because we will be discussing those in court. Here's what we can say at this point:

It is the role of the Medical Services Commission to protect the integrity and sustainability of the health care system and uphold the Medicare Protection Act. In fact in 2006, government amended the act to expand the audit and inspection powers of the Medical Services Commission and gave the commission powers to seek an injunction from the Supreme Court to prevent extra billing and other violations under the Act. The Medical Services Commission is acting on its legislative mandate to enforce the Medicare Protection Act.

Charging patients for or in relation to services that are benefits under the Medical Services Plan is prohibited under Sections 17 and 18 of the Medicare Protection Act. The Commission investigates complaints and has the authority to undertake audits in respect to these matters and uphold the Act. As a Government, we respect the authority of the Commission to uphold the Act and fulfil their mandate. If a member of the public has concerns that they have been charged for an MSP benefit that may contravene the Medicare Protection Act, we encourage them to contact the Commission.

Because this matter involves legal proceedings, it would not be appropriate to offer further comment at this time.

Please give me a call if you'd like to discuss.

Take care,
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From: Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:PFayerman@vancouver.sun.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: comment from govt on Day lawsuit

Thanks, but in any event, I'll need a comment.

PAMELA FAYERMAN

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From: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX [mailto:Ryan.Jabs@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 1:31 PM
To: Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun)
Subject: RE: comment from govt on Day lawsuit

Hi Pamela,

I'm going to run your request by our legal folks. We probably won't be able to say much, as we'll be arguing our defense before the courts.

I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Ryan Jabs
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From: Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun) [mailto:PFayerman@vancouversun.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 1:21 PM
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: comment from govt on Day lawsuit

Hi Ryan,

I am doing a story overnight on the statement of defense now filed by govt. in the Brian Day lawsuit. Is there someone in the ministry who can do an interview?

I am especially curious about the way doctors are blamed for wait lists and any ensuing problems patient experience. The statement also refers to negative effects of dual public/private systems but I am wondering why, if that is the government contention, the dual system has been able to flourish for decades?

In other words, why allow doctors to work in both systems if the evidence is so persuasive against it, as detailed on page 17 of the lawsuit?

It seems to me that while the statement attempts to deflect blame, and contend that a role for the private sector is downright dangerous, the government is inviting the public to say: then why has this sector been allowed to thrive so much?

Sorry for the lateness of this request.

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RE: Can you please tell me what's happening on this matter?

Tuesday, March 5, 2013
11:23 AM

Subject	RE: Can you please tell me what's happening on this matter?
From	Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
To	'PFayerman@vancouver.sun.com'
Sent	Thursday, January 24, 2013 12:58 PM

Hi Pamela,

Yep, work is still going on but not a lot to update. From the ministry:

The ministry continues to examine options for a nurse practitioner-anesthetists role in British Columbia, and we're still committed to moving this ahead. This will take a lot of work and time - including research and consultation - as this role would be the first of its kind in Canada. We continue to work with our partners, including the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia and other key stakeholders, to move the process forward.

Thank you,

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 7:14 AM
To: 'PFayerman@vancouver.sun.com'
Subject: Re: Can you please tell me what's happening on this matter?

I think we're still plugging away at the research and background work... let me check.

----- Original Message -----

From: Fayerman, Pamela (Vancouver Sun) [mailto:PFayerman@vancouver.sun.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 07:05 AM Pacific Standard Time
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: Can you please tell me what's happening on this matter?

<http://blogs.vancouver.sun.com/2012/04/12/nurse-anesthetists-bc-government-makes-plans-for-expanded-role/>

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