

SPRUCE News

Sustaining Pediatrics in Rural & Underserved Communities

Upcoming Events

Optimization of Technology in Pediatric Office Practice

[Register](#)

October 8, 7:30 - 9:00 pm | Virtual

At our next CME session, Dr. Tommy Gerschman and Dr. Kyle Phipps will be presenting on artificial intelligence and optimizing EMR use for rural community pediatricians.

During the session, attendees will learn about the benefits and challenges of using an AI Scribe to support clinical documentation, how to incorporate an AI Scribe into the pediatrician's workflow, plus the medicolegal and regulatory considerations related to the use of AI Scribes. Additionally, the presentation will cover how to create custom macros and template letters, utilize automatic patient texting services for reminders.

Gender-Affirming Care for Pediatric Patients in Rural Communities

[Register](#)

December 11, 7:30 - 9:00 pm | Virtual

During this CME session, presenters Dr. Ingrid Cosio and Dr. Dan Metzger will define gender affirming care for children and youth, review evidence-based interventions for gender-diverse children and youth, and cover how to assess and plan for pubertal suppression in gender-diverse or gender questioning pediatric patients.

The Rural Voices Gathering

November 20 & 27, 2024

The Rural Voices Gathering, co-hosted by the RCCbc, First Nations Health Authority and Health Quality BC, will bring together and amplify the voices of rural, remote and First Nations and Métis communities relative to health and wellness. Comprised of two half day virtual sessions and in-person community-based dialogue, the Gathering will address a range of topics, including:

- The Rural and Remote Health Strategy being developed by the BC Ministry of Health
- Transportation for health services
- Selection, education and training for health care providers from rural, remote, First Nations and Métis communities
- Hybrid health care including peer-to-peer virtual support, in-person and virtual patient consultations

Those living, working or providing services to a rural, remote, First Nations or Métis community are strongly encouraged to attend.

[Learn more & Register →](#)

SPRUCE Social

Pediatricians serving and supporting rural pediatrics, plus interested pediatric residents, are invited to join SPRUCe after the first day of the BC Pediatric Society annual conference. We'll have complimentary appetizers and can't wait to connect in person!



 **Friday, Nov 8 | 5:30-8:30 pm**

 **JOEY Bentall One, Vancouver**

[Join us - RSVP](#)



New CHARLiE providers needed

Have you heard about CHARLiE (Child Health Advice in ReaL-time Electronically)? This pediatric branch of the rural virtual support pathways is recruiting for new pediatricians to join the team.

CHARLiE pediatricians work 12 hour shifts providing Zoom based support to rural health care providers across BC and offer direct virtual consultations to pediatric patients in rural communities when needed. The work is highly rewarding and the remuneration is good. There is excellent onboarding and training. If you are interested in supporting children and youth in rural communities (while staying in your own community), this is for you! CHARLiE providers are given support to enhance their journey towards cultural competency, and a trauma-informed approach is key to this work. If you have any questions, please reach out to SPRUCe to be connected to a member of the CHARLiE team.

For more information, please review and fill out this Expression of Interest form →

Just for Coffee | October 23, 7:30-8:30pm

SPRUCe is bringing back Just for Coffee sessions for pediatric residents and keen medical students in October, with a session hosted by Dr. Cynthia Gunaratnam from Comox.

These evening sessions via Zoom allow trainees to meet with a rural pediatrician in an informal setting. The host pediatrician discusses what life as a rural pediatrician is like in a frankly honest way.

Anyone interested in participating as a host rural pediatrician in the future, please contact SPRUCe!



RSVP & Join us for coffee

Coordinating Pediatric Locums

It is well known that the work of recruiting, scheduling and onboarding locums usually falls to the overburdened rural physicians themselves. SPRUCe would like to encourage all rural pediatricians to advocate with their regional medical leadership for administrative support to secure and schedule pediatric locum providers. Consider speaking to the Medical Director for your Health Service Delivery Area or to the Pediatric Medical Lead for your region. Enlist the support of your physician recruiter as well! [Contact SPRUCe](#) if you would like to hear about other communities which have been successful in this.

Study Recruitment: A Clinical Pathway Study with Community Pediatricians in BC

This study is to better understand factors that influence pediatricians in using a clinical pathway in their practices and to learn about their experience managing the pain experiences of children with severe neurological impairments. Community pediatricians are invited to complete an online survey, followed by an interview conducted by phone or via Zoom. The study is expected to take participants 50 minutes to complete.

For questions or more information about this study, please contact Dr. Sharon Hou, Study Coordinator:
sharon.hou@bcchr.ca

[Participate in this survey](#)

CPS Rural Paediatrics SIG

The Canadian Paediatric Society Rural Paediatrics Special Interest Group (SIG) met for the first time at the CPS annual conference in June. It was a great meeting with pediatricians from across Canada, including from Nunavut, NWT, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Alberta and more. A survey will be distributed to members soon to help to tailor the goals of the SIG. Given that one of CPS's three Strategic Priorities for 2024-2027 is Paediatric Workforce, it is important to ensure there is a rural voice to the work being done by our national pediatric organization!

To join, [login to your CPS account](#), click "Join a Section or Special Interest Group" from the home page and choose "Rural Paediatrics SIG". There is no cost to join.