

Vancouver  
CoastalHealth  
*Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.*



Ministry of  
Health



A place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Faculty of Medicine

CON  
inter cultural online  
Health network

Providence  
HEALTH CARE  
How you want to be created.

# A Coming Together of Health Systems:

---

First Nations Traditional  
Practitioners in  
Acute Care Settings  
Discussion Guide





## **First Nations Traditional Healing in an Acute Care Setting:**

An Informational Video for Health Professionals  
<http://bit.ly/TraditionalPractitioners>

### **OBJECTIVE**

To create a video feature First Nations and Indigenous Traditional Healers which will provide health professionals with information on cultural healing practices and on how to facilitate access to traditional healers. The goal of this video is to:

- Increase the understanding of traditional healing
- Encourage the integration of traditional healing into the health care plans of First Nations and Indigenous patients
- Support positive health care experiences through a culturally competent care framework

## BACKGROUND

An environmental scan done by the First Nations Health Authority revealed that there is strong support in First Nations communities for the integration of traditional practices into medical care. This integration is supported by the Ministry of Health's goals and the Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance, both of which call for culturally appropriate and culturally safe health care.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) recognizes First Nations sovereign and inherent rights. VCH Senior Leadership have recently approved their Aboriginal Cultural Competency policy which includes health care services and programs that respect the right of First Nations and Aboriginal people to access cultural health care practices.

*This video will provide health professionals with a starting point for discussions on how VCH staff can facilitate access and ensure that patients receive culturally meaningful and relevant care. The video will feature:*

- Circumstances under which traditional healing practices might be requested
- Examples of traditional ceremonies, medicines or other healing practices
- Resources required from the health center (such as space)

This project is a joint-effort of Vancouver Coastal Health, and the UBC Faculty of Medicine, Digital Emergency Medicine (DigEM). It reflects a shared mission to improving patient care by leveraging technology in order to share knowledge, and by encouraging culturally safe care.

***We welcome your input and guidance. Please feel free to contact:  
Dr. Kendall Ho, Lead, Digital Emergency Medicine,  
Faculty of Medicine, UBC (Kendall.Ho@ubc.ca)***

# First Nations Traditional Healing in an Acute Care Setting

## A Coming Together of Health Systems: Traditional Practitioners - Video Discussion Guide

*The following guide aims to facilitate thoughtful and action-oriented discussions after video viewings. Learning objectives and key messages are outlined below, followed by stakeholder specific discussion questions.*

### **THREE KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS TO ENGAGE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE**

1. Health Professionals from acute care settings:
2. Traditional Practitioners
3. First Nations and Indigenous Patients

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. To promote an understanding of:
  - Traditional Practitioners and the traditional healing practices they provide
  - Circumstances under which traditional healing might be requested in an acute care setting
  - Potential resources required from health care centres to incorporate Traditional Practitioners into a patient-centered care framework.
2. To encourage discussion and appropriate action towards the integration of traditional healing into acute care settings.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Traditional Practitioners are trained to work with individuals to heal the mind, body and/or spirit, approaching health and healing from a holistic perspective. The practitioner may also work with the family to assist with the healing process. Traditional Practitioners favour a patient-centered approach, which relies not just on physicians but on a team of health professionals to ensure culturally appropriate and culturally relevant care is provided.
- Examples of practices used by Traditional Practitioners include the use of herbs, words, music, vibration of sound, energy, the medicine wheel, sacred pipes, smudging, and purification lodges.
- To incorporate traditional healing practices into an acute care setting, examples of required resources include the provision of additional space, participation of staff, and consultation for use of appropriate herbs.
- Opportunities exist for practitioners in acute health care settings to collaborate with Traditional Practitioners to ensure that the physical health as well as the spiritual and cultural health of the patient is addressed. These collaborations can also promote the health and positive experiences of patients' families.

# First Nations Traditional Healing in an Acute Care Setting

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Does this video resonate with you given your experiences as a \_\_\_\_\_ (physician/First Nations person/etc.)?
2. Do you think this video is a useful way to convey this kind of info? Why/why not?
3. What value do you see in this video for you/your work/your setting? How might you incorporate this video's primary teachings into your practice/your setting?
4. What other information do you think is important to share?
5. From your perspective, what information would you like to share with \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a. What challenges/barriers to collaboration have you experienced?
  - b. How do you think these challenges could be addressed?

6. After watching this video, what are the priority actions you would like to take in the next 3 months to change your practice? Please list the top 3 to 5 actions below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

May we send this list back to you in 3 months' time to ask you to reflect on whether you have taken these actions or not? If so, please indicate your preferred way to receive this info:

Email:

Cell phone number (Text):

Other method (Please specify):



# First Nations Traditional Healing in an Acute Care Setting

## HEALTH PRACTITIONER QUESTIONS

1. What stood out for you in this video?
2. Was any of this information new to you? If so, what did you learn about Traditional Practitioners/practices?
3. What do you see as being (potential) positives related to including Traditional Practitioners as part of the care team?
4. What do you see as being (potential) barriers related to including Traditional Practitioners as part of the care team? How might you and your team address some of these barriers?
5. Do you have any experience working with Traditional Practitioners that you would like to share?
6. Would you feel comfortable discussing traditional care options or access to traditional care with a patient and/or their family? Why or why not? What would this look like?
7. What do you think we could do, organizationally, to support the inclusion of Traditional Practitioners as part of the health care system? What do you think you could do, as an individual health care provider, to encourage or implement this process?

## **TRADITIONAL PRACTITIONER QUESTIONS**

1. What may affect or hinder the inclusion of Traditional Practitioners as part of an acute health care team?
2. What additional information and resources do you think the health system could provide in order to improve your ability to work in these settings?
  - a. How would you like to receive that additional information and resources?

## **FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PATIENT QUESTIONS**

1. Are you interested in receiving traditional care as part of your hospital experience?
2. What barriers have existed (or do you think exist) in accessing this care?
3. What would you identify as key areas to be addressed in order to improve the level of culturally safe care in primary care sites?



# Resources

## Access the Video

<http://bit.ly/TraditionalPractitioners>

## Complete our Feedback Survey

[https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7VzS1u9hG9n3kl7](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7VzS1u9hG9n3kl7)

## PHSA

- Indigenous Cultural Competency Training Course  
<http://www.culturalcompetency.ca/>

## VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH (VCH)

- Aboriginal Health Strategic Initiatives  
<http://aboriginalhealth.vch.ca/en/>
- Educational Documents  
<http://aboriginalhealth.vch.ca/working-together/cultural-competency/education-documents-developed>
- Aboriginal Patient Navigators  
<http://aboriginalhealth.vch.ca/health-services/apn>  
Toll-free: 1.877.875.1131  
Email: [info.aboriginalhealth@vch.ca](mailto:info.aboriginalhealth@vch.ca)

## PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE

- Carol Kellman, BScN  
Aboriginal Nurse Practice Leader, Providence Healthcare  
[CKellman@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:CKellman@providencehealth.bc.ca) or 604-682-2344 Loc 62937

*We would like to thank the following individuals for their valuable contributions to this project:*

Gerry Oleman, Shane Pointe, Susan Powell, Carol Kellman, Allison Boothe, Elizabeth Stacy, Anne-Marie Jamin, Jon Rawlinson, Antonia Hyman, Helen Novak Lauscher, Tonya Gomes, and Dr. Kendall Ho.