



Kootenay Boundary Primary Care Network

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10,000 People in Kootenay Boundary Connected to Family Practitioners Through the Health Connect Registry

Milestone demonstrates the Health Connect Registry (HCR) is helping local patients find the care they need - all residents without a family doctor or nurse practitioner are encouraged to sign up through KBHCR.ca

Kootenay Boundary, BC - The Kootenay Boundary has reached a significant milestone: since its launch in 2022, **10,000 local patients have been connected with a local family doctor or nurse practitioner through the Health Connect Registry (HCR)**. The HCR is the way people in our region get connected to a family practitioner, and these numbers show it is helping local patients find the care they need.

“This is a major success for our region,” said **Dr. Shelina Musaji, PCN Steering Committee Co-Chair and Family Physician in Kaslo**. “The Health Connect Registry is the pathway for patients in Kootenay Boundary to get connected with family doctors and nurse practitioners. This progress comes thanks to the combined efforts of clinics, practitioners, and community partners across the region. It’s encouraging to see thousands already matched, and we want people to know that registering really does make a difference in getting access to care.”

For many patients, the wait to be connected can feel long, leaving some wondering whether signing up is worth it. Local health partners want to remind residents that registering is the best path to a provider and encourage anyone who has not yet signed up to do so.

“When I’m asked by my patients in the Emergency Department how they can get a family doctor or nurse practitioner, my answer is always the same: sign up for the Health Connect Registry,” said **Dr. Dharma McBride, Nelson Family/Emergency Physician**, “It’s the list clinics use when spots open up, and these results show that people are being connected.”

New providers are also on the way. Doctors and nurse practitioners arriving in Trail, Nelson, and Castlegar will connect patients from the HCR list. Wait times vary by community, but people who signed up in 2023 are now being called.

“It’s encouraging to see more people in our community getting connected, especially considering that several doctors retired in recent years,” said **Mindy Smith, patient partner with the Patient Advisory Committee and Community**. “The wait can feel frustrating, but this shows progress is happening. It’s excellent news.”

The Ministry of Health also uses HCR sign-up data to understand local needs and guide funding decisions. So signing up yourself and your family members not only helps you, but helps our communities get more Primary Care resources.

Signing up is easy. Visit KBHCR.ca - registration takes less than five minutes using your health number, address, email, and phone. Support is available by calling 8-1-1. For patients without a current fixed address, a postal code can be used to register. While waiting, patients can also find care options at KBHCR.ca, including the **KB Access Clinic**, the **Urgent and Primary Care Centre (UPCC)**, **KB Screen** preventive screening services, and more.

Residents without a family doctor or nurse practitioner are encouraged to sign up at KBHCR.ca.

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ABOUT

The Kootenay Boundary Primary Care Network (PCN) is a partnership between local family doctors, nurse practitioners, Kootenay Boundary Division of Family Practice, Interior Health, the Ministry of Health, Aboriginal partners, and patients.

Together, we’re expanding access to primary care by bringing team-based providers - like nurses, social workers, dietitians, and more - into clinics across the region. **At the heart of our work is one goal: ensuring every resident has timely access to a trusted care team for comprehensive, culturally safe, and continuous care.**

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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