

# Gynecological Oncology Services at Interior Health

Diane Shendruk, VP, Clinical Operations North  
Dr. Vanessa Carlson, Gynecologic Oncologist, KGH  
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# Land acknowledgement

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Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dǎkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, syilx, and T̓silhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.



# BACKGROUND:

## Gynecological Oncology Services in BC

- Due to the increasing occurrence of reproductive system cancers and current demand, surgical wait-times for Gynecologic (Gyne) Oncology surgery in BC have significantly increased.
- Gynecologic Oncology Surgery supports treatment for reproductive cancers, such as uterine, ovarian, and cervical cancers.
- Gyne Oncology surgeries in BC were limited to two locations, Vancouver, and Victoria.
- Patients, including those waiting from Interior Health (IH), were not receiving gyne oncology surgery in a timely manner.
- Collaborative work with Ministry of Health, IH Surgical Services Network, and BC Cancer identified that an IH Gynecological Oncology surgical program could reduce wait times and support surgery closer to home.



# Gynecological Oncology Services in Interior Health

- IH's Surgical Services Network, the Ministry and BC Cancer, worked collaboratively with Kelowna General Hospital Clinical Operations Leadership to determine the needs for developing a new surgical program.
- This collaboration was key to bringing this service to IH and establishing a gyne oncology surgery program in less than a year's time.
- Interior Health recruited three new gynecologic oncology surgeons to Kelowna General Hospital to address the growing demand and bring these essential services to our region, reducing the need for patients to travel to the Lower Mainland for care.
- Since the first surgery in September, 82 oncology patients have received their surgical care in a timely manner.



# Kelowna General Hospital Operations

- To support the new program, KGH dedicated OR time by:
  - Optimizing OR efficiency and utilization
  - Reallocating OR hours to the new program
  - Adding extended weekday slates.
- KGH also added additional Colposcopy Clinic hours to adequately support care for surgical gynecological oncology patients and prevent delays in diagnostic, minor treatment, and post-surgical follow-up.



# Thank You

