

Heart Health & Cardiac Services

Together, we help patients manage their heart health.

While heart patients are cared for in a variety of locations on Vancouver Island, the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, is the Heart Health Centre of Excellence for tertiary care. We are well known in Canada for providing leading interventional procedures; elder friendly initiatives; and our outpatient rehabilitation programs/clinics.

To learn more, visit our [Heart Health & Cardiac Services](#) website.

Heart Health and Cardiac Services include:

Post Open Heart Surgery Recovery Ward is a 14-bed telemetry unit where open heart surgery patients are cared for while they recover following surgery. This unit is located on the third floor of our eight floor state-of-the-art Patient Care Centre.

Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVU) is an 7-bed unit, where an average combination of 3-5 open heart, thoracic/abdominal aneurysm or laser lead surgeries are accommodated on a daily basis.

Coronary Care Unit (CCU) is an 8-bed unit caring for critically ill medical cardiac patients who are unstable and require intensive monitoring and interventions. Examples include: post myocardial infarction, heart failure and arrhythmia care and cardiac arrest management including hypothermia therapy and ventilator management.

Medical Cardiology is a 24-bed in-patient unit with a caring team attending to patients with a variety of cardiac illnesses and specializes in arrhythmia management. There are also two out-patient programs: a 4-bed pacemaker program and the highly recognized same-day cardiac surgical admission program (4 beds) for open heart surgical patients.

Cardiac Short Stay is a 19-bed short stay unit (24 hours or less) that also houses one procedure room for patients requiring procedural sedations. The four procedure chairs offer patients a comfortable place to recover from heart catheterization and electrophysiology procedures. We are the first centre in Canada to implement a new chair recovery model following diagnostic and interventional procedures and are able to do this due to our 95% use of radial artery access for heart catheterization.

Electrophysiology (EP) and Heart Catheterization (HC) Labs – In two EP labs and two HC labs, we diagnose and treat patients for a wide spectrum of cardiac disorders. Our EP Lab specializes in diagnosis and treatment of complex arrhythmias and leads the country in pulmonary vein isolation procedures. The HC Lab is internationally recognized for its innovative radial artery access approach for diagnostic and complex interventional procedures and for providing a Cardiology Fellowship program.

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Echocardiography Lab (Campbell River, Courtenay, Parksville, Nanaimo, Duncan and Victoria) – One to three types of echocardiography procedures (regular, stress and Transesophageal) are completed. Regular Echocardiogram use non-invasive ultrasound technology to record images of the heart to analyze structure, function and overall cardiac performance. Our echo labs are capable of producing high quality 2D and 3D images. At our Victoria echo lab, echo enhancement agents can be used to help us improve suboptimal quality echo images.

Electrodiagnostics provides cardiac-related diagnostic tests at various locations throughout Island Health:

- Electrocardiogram (ECG)
- Holter monitoring
- Exercise treadmill tests
- Event Monitoring
- Ambulatory Blood Pressure

Cardiac Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Program (Victoria) teaches individuals about their disease, symptoms and management. Our emphasis is assisting patients through our prevention outpatient program to make lifestyle changes such as quitting smoking, increasing physical activity, and eating healthy. Our multidisciplinary team includes a cardiologist, psychiatrist, nurse clinicians, physiotherapists/exercise specialists, rehabilitation assistant, cardiology technician, dietitian and social worker.

Heart Function Clinics (Campbell River, Nanaimo and Victoria) provide management strategies, medication titration and patient education to patients with heart failure via a multidisciplinary team including a heart failure physician (Cardiologist in Victoria and Internist in Nanaimo and Campbell River), nurse clinicians, a psychiatrist, a social worker and exercise specialists.

All patients are offered a monitored exercise program. The emphasis is on collaborative care for complex patients to ensure maximum tolerated therapies, prevent re-admissions to hospital for heart failure, and to educate patients and their support person on the management of their disease. Contact with the clinic varies before being returned to their regular care practitioner for ongoing care.

Atrial Fibrillation Clinic (Victoria) provides support and patient education to patients with symptomatic atrial fibrillation via a multidisciplinary team of electrophysiologists or a general cardiologist, nurse clinicians, and a clinical pharmacist. The emphasis is to ensure patients are on appropriate stroke prophylaxis, have optimal heart rate and symptom control, and are educated about atrial fibrillation and its management.

Electrophysiology services are provided to patients with high burden AF symptoms who may require rhythm control (antiarrhythmic drugs or procedural interventions such as pulmonary vein ablation), and those with challenging rate control issues. Patients managing well in the community may also be referred to the atrial fibrillation education only class to learn more about their atrial fibrillation.

Pacemaker Clinics & Defibrillator Clinic (Campbell River, Nanaimo and Victoria) provide evaluation and ongoing follow-up for patients with implanted pacemakers and defibrillators to ensure each device is working properly and to monitor life of the device.

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