

# Regional Anesthesiology Physician Coverage Policy

## 1. Introduction

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (“**VCH**”) and Providence Health Care (“**PHC**”) seek to ensure anesthesia departments within the region are appropriately staffed by anesthesiologists or Family Practice: Anesthesia physicians in order to provide high quality and timely patient care.

### 1.1 Purpose

This policy sets out an expedited process to facilitate staffing at VCH sites under urgent circumstances such as (but not limited to): unexpected staffing shortages, wildfires, pandemic coverage, CST implementation.

Establishing a regional pool for a group of Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physicians who are already credentialed and privileged and in good standing at a VCH or PHC site will enable VCH to provide a more timely response to individual site needs and reduce the administrative work for the medical leader and the Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician.

### 1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician who are credentialed and privileged in the “Active” staff category at a VCH or PHC site.

## 2. Policy

### 2.1 Anesthesia Regional Pool Membership

The Regional Pool of Anesthesia are those Anesthesiologists or FP: Anesthesia physicians who can work at any VCH Anesthesia Department on request without further administrative requirements such as interim privileges.

#### ***Process for VCH Privileged Anesthesiologists or FP: Anesthesia Physicians***

Once an Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician moves from the Provisional medical staff category to the Active medical staff category at a VCH site, they will automatically be added to the regional pool in the “Temporary” medical staff category.

Letters of appointment and reappointment to the Active category of medical staff will clearly delineate the physician’s addition to the Regional Anesthesia pool as “Temporary” medical staff.

The physician's primary site will continue to be the site where they are in the Active Medical staff category.

### ***Process for PHC Privileged Anesthesiologists***

Once an Anesthesiologist moves from the Provisional medical staff category to the Active medical staff category at a PHC site, they will be invited to apply for cross-appointment to VCH medical staff in the Regional Anesthesia pool in the "Temporary" medical staff category.

Such Anesthesiologist will receive letters of appointment and reappointment from VCH that specify the physician's addition to the Regional Anesthesia pool as "Temporary" medical staff.

The physician's primary site will continue to be the site where they are in the Active Medical staff category.

## **2.2 Regional Anesthesia Pool Requirements**

To be added to the Regional Pool and to remain within the Regional Pool, the Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician must have Active Anesthesia privileges at a VCH or PHC site and must remain in good standing at VCH.

In situations where an Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician has been flagged for a disciplinary issue (behavioural or clinical) or where there is an ongoing investigation, the physician will automatically be temporarily removed from the Regional Pool upon notice of the disciplinary issue or concern.

If an Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician is on a leave of absence from their primary site, they will be temporarily removed from the Regional Pool. In specific circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, the Regional Head of Anesthesia may exercise discretion to allow an Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician to remain in the Regional Pool even if they are on a leave of absence from their primary site.

## **2.3 Engaging Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia Physician in Regional Pool**

The decision to engage an Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician from the Regional Pool at an additional site will be at the discretion of the site's Anesthesia Department Head or Local Medical Director with agreement from the Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician.

The invitation will clearly delineate which shifts, or which specific time period, the Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician is invited to cover. The physician is only permitted to use their temporary privileges and provide health care at the site during for the periods outlined in the invitation.

#### **2.4 Limitations & Restrictions of Regional Pool Privileges**

Membership in the Regional Pool creates no entitlement to work at any VCH site and no obligation to accept shifts at any VCH site, aside from an Anesthesiologist or FP: Anesthesia physician's primary site.

No member of the Regional Pool may use their temporary privileges Regional Pool privileges at any VCH site without invitation and permission from the site's Anesthesia Department Head or Local Medical Director.