

Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool – FAQ

1. What is the Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool?

The Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool is a group of Anesthesiologists and Family Practice: Anesthesia physicians who are already credentialed and privileged in the Active medical staff category at a Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) or Providence Health Care (PHC) site. Members can provide coverage at any VCH Anesthesia department during urgent staffing needs without additional credentialing or privileging steps.

2. What is the purpose of the Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool?

The purpose of the Pool is to ensure that Anesthesia departments across VCH sites are appropriately staffed during urgent staffing needs without additional credentialing or privileging related administrative delays.

3. Who is eligible to join the Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool?

To be eligible, a provider must be an Anesthesiologist or Family Practice: Anesthesia physician in good standing in the Active medical staff category at a VCH or PHC site.

4. What administrative steps are required for pool participation?

For VCH physicians: Automatic addition to the pool upon appointment to Active status.

PHC physicians need to engage in an expedited VCH cross-appointment process to join the Regional Anesthesia Temporary pool.

Note: All appointments and reappointments are documented in the credentialing and privileging system, with letters confirming pool membership.

5. Is participation in the Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool Mandatory?

Participation in the Pool is voluntary. Physicians may choose not to join the Pool by emailing Medical Affairs at RegAnesthesiaTempPool@vch.ca to decline inclusion.

6. Does pool membership guarantee work at other sites?

Membership does not entitle a physician to work at any additional VCH site. Coverage at additional sites is at the discretion of the site's Anesthesia Department Head and must be agreed upon by the physician.

7. How are pool members engaged for coverage?

- The site Anesthesia Department identifies the need for coverage and accesses the Pool list.
- A call is put out to Pool members.
- Interested physicians contact the site heads listed on the call out request.
- The site head reviews and confirms coverage.

8. Are Pool members required to respond to coverage requests?

Physicians are required to attend scheduled shifts at the site(s) where they hold medical staff appointments. However, for any shifts offered through the Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool, there is no obligation to accept. Membership in the Regional Pool does not create a requirement to respond to or accept temporary coverage requests at other VCH sites.

9. How is the pool list maintained?

The Pool list is updated in Smartsheet and the credentialing and privileging system whenever there are changes (e.g., new appointments, leaves, departures).

Motions for changes are reviewed and approved by HAMAC and the Board.

10. What happens if a physician's eligibility or status change?

Leaves of Absence: If a physician is on leave of absence, they are temporarily removed from the regional pool.

Disciplinary Issues: If a physician is flagged for disciplinary issues or are under investigation, they are temporarily removed from the pool.

Separations (Going off staff): If a physician leaves VCH or PHC, they will be removed from the regional pool.

Category Change from Active: If a physician moves from the Active medical staff category to another medical staff category, they will be removed from the regional pool.

11. Are there any restrictions on scope of practice?

Scope of practice is considered when determining eligibility to work at a particular site.

The site Head will determine the set of clinical privileges that will be approved for the Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool physician at their site. Temporary pool privileges can only be used at a site with explicit invitation and permission from the site's Anesthesia Department Head or Local Medical Director.

12. Who oversees and approves changes to the pool?

The Regional Department Head of Anesthesia is responsible for the regional pool and will work with the regional Medical Staff Services team to ensure the list is complete and up to date.

All motions for appointment to the regional pool and any changes to the regional pool are reviewed and approved through established governance channels.

13. Who determines which clinical privileges can be exercised at a site?

While members of the Regional Anesthesia Temporary Pool may have privileges listed in the privileging dictionary, this does not automatically entitle them to exercise those privileges at a site where they are providing temporary coverage.

The specific privileges required for coverage at a site are identified and approved by the site's Anesthesia Department Head. Only the site head can determine which privileges are appropriate and permitted during the temporary assignment.