

Michal Smialowski MD CCFP
President West Chilcotin Health Care Society (WCHCS)
Box 34 Tatlayoko Lake BC
V0L1W0

27 May 2018

Mr. Robert Simpson
Chair CRD Health Board

Re: Point of Care Testing (POCT)

Dear Bob,

I have just received a funding confirmation form from IH for a piece of equipment known as an iStat. This is the commercial name for a device that performs Point of Care Testing (POCT). With the iStat machine, clinicians at the West Chilcotin Health Centre will be able to get blood test results on site in 15 minutes or less. This will be a vast improvement over the present situation where the blood is drawn locally but must be shipped to Williams for processing, results often are not received for over 12 -24 hours.

The West Chilcotin Health Care Society (WCHCS) will be funding the capital cost of the iStat machine. IH will assume the cost of the disposable cartridges that are used for each test. The cost per test is approximately \$20. Due to the relatively high cost per test, POCT will only be used in situations where immediate results are required.

POCT will significantly improve healthcare delivery in the West Chilcotin. It will help triage patients as to the level of acuity of their clinical condition. In some cases it may avoid transfer to a higher level of care with substantial savings to the system and the patient. In other cases it may allow immediate treatment that could not be safely delivered without the results of the POCT.

The WCHCS requests consideration of partnering with the CRD for partial cost of this valuable device.

Sincerely,

Michal Smialowski
President
WCHCS