

Corrections Workshop Agenda

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May 24, 2026
Kelowna, BC



Western Canada Addiction Forum

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This activity (303350-001) has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 6 Mainpro+® Certified Activity credits.

0745h - 0820h Registration, Breakfast and Networking

0820h - 0830h Opening Remarks and Housekeeping

0830h - 1000h Overview of Federal and Provincial Correctional Health Care
Dr. Jess Melle, Dr. Ginette Poulin, Dr. Annabel Mead, Dr. Nathaniel Day

The panel will discuss what is currently happening in their corrections setting, top 3 challenges, top 3 best practices.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe the current landscape of Correctional Health services across the nation.
- Identify common barriers to implementing best practice substance use care in carceral settings.
- Highlight provincial successes in addressing the overdose crisis in the prison population.

1000h - 1030h Practical Approaches to Diagnosing and Treating Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections (STBBIs) in Carceral Settings
Dr. Alexander Wong

Diagnostic testing and prompt management of sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) in carceral settings are central to patient safety, population health, and institutional risk management, especially in Canada where incarcerated populations bear a disproportionate burden of HIV, hepatitis C, and other STBBIs. This brief presentation will summarize the importance of systematic opt-out admission screening of STBBIs in Canadian carceral settings as well as optimal management of STBBIs in these settings by a range of health care providers including nurses, nurse practitioners, primary care physicians, and infectious disease physicians.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Discuss optimal diagnostic strategies for STBBIs in carceral settings, including the use of opt-out approaches and point-of-care testing.
- Briefly review current approaches for management of STBBIs in carceral settings.
- Discuss best practice strategies for managing STBBIs in carceral settings, including the use of clinical directives to facilitate nurse-led and pharmacy-led approaches.

1030h - 1045h Refreshment Break and Networking

1045h - 1145h Panel: Innovative OUD Treatment

Dr. Imran Ghauri, Dr. Geoffrey Sem, Dr. Annabel Mead

BUP-XR inductions (Dr. Ghauri), BUP-XR Contingency Management BC (Dr. Mead), Methadone to BUP-XR transitions (Dr. Sem)

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe options for BUP-XR induction in the carceral setting.
- Assess the novel contingency reward program for BUP-XR initiation in BC provincial facilities.

- Explore the efficacy of direct methadone to BUP-XR transitions in a supervised setting.

1145h - 1215h Lunch and Networking

1215h - 1315h Panel: Prescribing Safety Including High Commodity Meds, Diversion

Dr. Nathaniel Day, Dr. Ginette Poulin, Dr. Jess Melle, Dr. Nader Sharifi

High-Commodity Meds, Diversion

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify the extent and types of medication diversion in prison settings.
- Explore options to reduce diversion of high-commodity medications.
- Develop team-based guidelines to minimize diversion risk in Correctional Health settings.

1315h - 1345h Session: Acute Withdrawal Management

Dr. Annabel Mead, Dr. Andrew Skinner

BZDs, Medetomidine (and triage for other acute illness)

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify the changes in withdrawal presentations as the toxic drug supply has evolved.
- Recognize the features of medetomidine withdrawal.
- Apply treatment strategies for mixed withdrawal syndromes.

1345h - 1400h Refreshment Break and Networking

1400h - 1430h Session: Non-Pharm Treatments

Dr. Jess Melle, Dr. Nathaniel Day

Wellbriety, TLUs (Alberta)

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Explore the range of non-pharmaceutical treatments available in correctional settings.
- Describe the components of the Wellbriety recovery movement.
- Assess the potential benefits of creating Treatment Living Units in Canadian prisons.

1430h - 1515h Panel: Transitions in Care

Dr. Nader Sharifi, Dr. Bernadette Bradbury

Transitions Between Facilities and Release to Community

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe current processes for ensuring continuity of care when transferring inmates between carceral facilities.
- Explore methods for transferring health care to community providers upon release.
- Summarize the BC Community Transition Teams' approach to supporting at-risk individuals upon release from prison.

1515h - 1530h Closing Remarks and Conclusion of Event

Meet our Workshop Presenters



Dr. Bernadette Bradbury

MDCM, CCFP

Dr. Bernadette Bradbury completed medical school and Family Medicine residency at McGill University. She has worked in full service family medicine in urban, rural and indigenous communities across Quebec and British Columbia for 30 years. She currently works as a family physician with Provincial Health Services Authority Correctional Health Services, where she provides both virtual and in-person primary & substance use care to individuals in custody at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre, along with provincial on-call support. She is also actively involved with British Columbia's Community Transition Teams, delivering continuity of care for individuals transitioning back into the community.

In addition to her correctional health work, Dr. Bradbury provides primary care in mental health and rehabilitation settings, including residential recovery programs with Coast Mental Health and tertiary psychiatric residential care with Fraser Health. Her practice focuses on individuals with complex mental health and substance use needs across institutional and community settings. She has also served as President of the Correctional Health Services Engagement Society, supporting collaboration and system improvement across correctional health programs.



Dr. Nathaniel Day

MD, CCFP, Diplomate ABAM, CHE

Dr. Nathaniel Day is the Chief Scientific Officer for the Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence, a crown corporation located in Calgary Alberta. Dr. Day has developed and implemented programs to support people with addiction to receive timely and appropriate care including significant advancements including Alberta's Virtual Opioid Dependency Program, support treatment induction in the ED, access to treatment virtually through community paramedics, including for individuals in police custody and profound improvement

for treatment of individuals facing incarceration. Dr. Day co-chaired the Alberta Recovery Expert Advisory Committee, was a member of the Alberta Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Committee, is the Provincial Medical Director of Addiction for Recovery Alberta, and has served in various other leadership capacities.



Dr. Imran Ghauri

MD, CCFP AM, . cISAM., cCSAM

Dr. Ghauri is the current Provincial Medical Director for Inpatient Care for Recovery Alberta; he has a background in Emergency Medicine and developed a true passion for helping those suffering with addictions in this setting. Dr. Ghauri moved to Canada from the UK in 2012 and continued working in the addiction field eventually starting work at the Virtual Opioid Dependency Program where he was able to dedicate his practice to managing patients with addiction. In his spare time he likes to travel and spend time with his family.



Dr. Annabel Mead

MBBS, FACHAM, DABAM Physician (Specialist in Addiction Medicine)

Practicing addiction medicine for over 20 years with expertise in women's health, concurrent psychiatric disorders and pain management. She is a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, a diplomate of the American Board of Addiction Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor, UBC. Dr. Mead has worked in many community, inpatient and outpatient treatment settings in Vancouver. These include the Addiction Medicine Consult Service at St Paul's Hospital and New Dawn Recovery House. She holds the positions of Medical Director for BC Correctional Health Services and is the medical lead for the BC Provincial Perinatal Substance Use program.



Dr. Jess Melle

MD, CCFP

Dr. Jess Melle graduated from the University of Saskatchewan Family Medicine Program in 2009. Since then, he has practised rural medicine and addictions medicine, including developing community-based wrap-around addictions programs that incorporate Indigenous cultural practices in partnership with nearby First Nations communities. Dr. Melle is currently the Primary Care Physician Lead for Correctional Service Canada's Prairie Region. He provides clinical care at Saskatchewan Penitentiary and Willow Cree Healing Lodge, serves as a Medical Advisor for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, and is the current President of the Section of Family Medicine at the Saskatchewan Medical Association.



Dr. Ginette Poulin

RD, MD, CCFP(AM), FCPC, CISAM, CCPE, CMCBT

Dr. Poulin is a Family Physician, an Addictions Medicine expert, a Certified Canadian Executive Physician Leader, a Registered Dietitian and a former professional dancer; whom after having ventured to various provinces and countries to pursue her studies, returned to her home province of Manitoba. She contributes both professionally and personally to the well-being of Canadians through education, health services, advocacy, leadership, research and community development. She has taken roles in Addiction Medicine Leadership including Medical Director of the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, CO-Lead for the RAAM Manitoba under Shared Health and Medical Director, Concurrent Program at Waypoint Mental Health Care Centre. She supports the Central North Correctional Centre and provides education for Correctional facilities across ON and MB.



Dr. Geoffrey Sem

MD, MSc

Dr. Geoffrey Sem, MD, MSc, is a Family Physician and Addiction Medicine Fellow with the BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) based at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. Originally from Toronto, he completed his undergraduate degree in Kinesiology at York University, followed by medical school at the University of Toronto, where he also earned a Master's in Health Systems Leadership and Innovation. He recently completed his Family Medicine residency at the University of British Columbia, Surrey South Fraser. Dr. Sem's clinical and research interests focus on evidence-based treatment of substance use disorders, harm reduction, and improving access to addiction care across diverse settings, including community and correctional environments.



Dr. Nader Sharifi

BSc, MD, CCFP(AM), FCFP, CCHP-P, FASAM

Dr. Nader Sharifi is a Certificant and Fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada with a Certificate of Added Competency in Addiction Medicine. He is also a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He has had 25 years experience in prison health and holds a certificate in correctional health with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. Currently, he is the Substance Use Services Medical Advisor for Correctional Service Canada and the primary care provider at the Pacific Institution/Regional Treatment Centre in Abbotsford, BC. His previous roles include Medical Director for Correctional Health Services at BC Corrections, Addiction Medicine Lead for BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, and Addiction Medicine Lead for Fraser Health Authority. He is a graduate of Dalhousie Medical School and completed his postgraduate training at the University of British Columbia. He started his career with Forensic Psychiatric Services and over the years developed an interest and expertise in Prison Health.



Dr. Andrew Skinner

CCFP-EM, MD

Dr. Andrew Skinner has been practicing Emergency Medicine and Corrections Medicine in British Columbia since 2009. His academic interests include medical education and point of care ultrasound. He is the founder of the UBC Department of Emergency Medicine's Point of care ultrasound fellowship program, a Master Instructor with the Canadian point of care ultrasound society, and the director of the BC correctional health services point of care ultrasound pilot program. Additionally, he was the founding president of the BC correctional health services engagement society, and continues to act as the lead physician for the societies Primary Care working group.



Dr. Alexander Wong

MD, FRCPC

Alex is an infectious disease and addictions medicine physician and clinician-researcher with the Saskatchewan Health Authority and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. He completed medical school at Western University followed by internal medicine and infectious diseases at the University of Alberta, and has worked full time in Regina's ID Clinic since 2011. He obtained certification and began practice in addictions medicine alongside his ID work in 2019. His clinical and research interests focus on chronic viral infections including HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C, particularly in marginalized populations such as persons who are incarcerated and persons with substance use disorders. Alongside a superb interdisciplinary team, he provides infectious disease and addictions care in multiple settings including hospitals in Regina, inner-city clinics, provincial correctional facilities in Regina, and Correctional Service of Canada facilities across Saskatchewan.

**This program has received financial support from Indivior
Canada in the form of an unrestricted sponsorship**

