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To: All FHA Surgeons,

March 7 2016

**Re: Patient Prioritization Codes – Implementation of Updated Codes**

A national review of the existing *paediatric* patient prioritization codes has been completed. The goal of the project was to review and update the Paediatric Canadian Access Targets for Surgery (P-CATS) codes to ensure that the descriptions of diagnosis/clinical condition used are correct, comprehensive and have an appropriate wait time target. Original development of these targets was in 2008.

The Surgical Patient Registry has updated the SPR provincial paediatric codes based on the updated P-CATS codes.

The national review process was championed by key paediatric groups: *the Paediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC)*, *the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres - Canadian Paediatric Decision Support Network (CAPHC-CPDSN)*, and *Alberta Health Services (AHS)*. The project was led by Alberta staff, and consultation included representatives from most of the Canadian provinces, including British Columbia. Please see the attached *Paediatric Canadian Access Targets for Surgery (P-CATS) Update Project Report (April 1, 2016)*.

As you may be aware, the process for updating the adult diagnosis prioritization codes, targets and descriptions was conducted by the BC Ministry of Health in 2014/15. A paediatric review was not included in this review. The inclusion of a paediatric national update at this time will provide more currency to all of the provincial codes. The planned go-live date for the updated patient prioritization codes is April 1, 2016.

In order to ensure the updated paediatric codes are implemented successfully, please be aware of the following key dates and required actions to assist with the implementation:

**March 2016**

- Surgeons' offices informed of the updated codes
- **Action Required:** If you are a user of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) software, you will need to notify your EMR vendor directly asking that, if required, they load the updated codes into their EMR software. If this is the case, you will need to give your EMR vendor the updated codes (available in Excel format.) The updated codes "Prioritization Code List V23.1.xlsx", including adult and paediatric codes, can be found on the Physicians website under the heading 'Diagnosis Prioritization' at <http://physicians.fraserhealth.ca/Clinical-Resources/#Forms>.
- The updated patient prioritization codes (in PDF format) and a mapping document, "PCATS mapping document Feb 2016.xlsx" for your own use are available on the Physicians website noted above. The mapping document lists, where appropriate, the replacement of old codes

with new codes. *The PDF document serves as your new reference list for the codes when you are completing the OR Booking Form.* Please do not use the updated codes on new OR Booking Forms until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 as they will not be accepted by Fraser Health before this date.

- A new paediatric prioritization code list “Gastroenterology Surgery” has also been introduced.

#### **April 1<sup>st</sup> (Go-Live, Grace Period Begins)**

- April and May will be a grace period during which Fraser Health will continue to assist your office to transition to the updated codes. You may be notified if your OR Booking form has an expired code during this period.
- Note that existing cases already booked for surgery with old codes will not need to have their prioritization code updated. Old codes will be allowed to exist in the system for as long as these cases are active.
- **Action Required:** Starting April 1st 2016, your office is asked to delete or shred your old (paediatric) code lists and use the updated patient prioritization codes when completing the OR Booking form.

#### **May 31<sup>st</sup> (End of Grace Period)**

- Fraser Health booking offices will only accept the updated patient prioritization codes on the OR Booking form.

If you have any questions about the provincial review of the patient prioritization codes or the use of the updated codes on the surgery booking forms please feel free to contact Surgery Information Systems at 604-587-4482 or via email at [surgeryinformationsystemssupport@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:surgeryinformationsystemssupport@fraserhealth.ca).

Fraser Health is committed to completing this work in order to manage wait lists effectively and fairly for patients. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important initiative.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support.

Kind Regards,

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