

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

The Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) is the Senior “Patient Care” committee of healthcare professionals of WRHA, directly advisory to the Board on policy related to patient and professional practice issues, as may be defined and constituted under the by-laws of the Board, and advisory to the CEO on operational matters. Its purposes are:

1. To ensure health care services are designed to enhance both patient experience and patient outcomes.
2. To provide advice and recommendations to the Regional Operations Council on issues related to professional practice and scope of practice, including standards of care, competencies, evidence informed practice, clinical education, patient safety, quality indicators, and performance management systems and the impact of such issues on operations and patient care.
3. To provide leadership in advancing professional practice within an interprofessional environment and to provide a mechanism for accountability of health care providers that crosses program and facility boundaries.

SCOPE AND FUNCTION

1. To advance and support interprofessional education and practice.
 - a. To develop and oversee implementation of a regional action plan on interprofessional education and practice.
 - b. To provide direction and recommendations on issues relating to scope of practice.
 - c. To provide leadership in resolving issues arising among various professional groups and/or involving interprofessional conflicts.

2. To approve evidence informed practice tools and proposed practice changes within the region.
 - a. To develop policy and processes for the development, approval, implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of evidence informed practice tools within the region.
3. To provide leadership and direction to all committees reporting to PAC. PAC will receive scheduled reports/information from each of these committees
4. To inform and provide recommendations on regional policy, procedure, professional standards, clinical education and practice issues.
 - a. To review the impact of health care legislation on professional practice and make recommendations for action as required.
5. To identify and provide leadership around initiatives that aim to improve patient experience, patient safety and quality of care.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Professional Advisory Committee reports to the WRHA Board on patient care policy issues and to the CEO on operational matters. Membership and Terms of Reference of PAC will be approved by the WRHA Board of Directors.

The following Committees will report to PAC, including the provision of regular reports, recognizing that there may be other administrative reporting requirements and accountabilities:

- Allied Health Leadership Council
- Nursing Leadership Council
- Medical Executive Committee
- Medication Quality and Safety Committee
- WRHA Standards Committee
- Patient Safety and Quality Research Committee
- WRHA Infection Prevention and Control Committee

- Chronic Disease Collaborative

MEMBERSHIP

The Professional Advisory Committee will consist of representatives from each of the following committees nominated by the Chair of the respective Council/Committee:

- Allied Health Leadership Council (2)
- Nursing Leadership Council (2)
- Medical Advisory Committee (2)
- Community Health Services Leadership Committee (2)
- PCH Executive Director Council (2)
- Medication Quality and Safety Committee (1)
- WRHA Standards Committee (1)
- Quality and system Performance (1)
- WRHA Infection Prevention and Control Committee (1)
- WRHA Ethics Services (1)

In addition, six (6) members at large will be selected through an application process from the clinical professional staff. Members will serve a term of two (2) years. All Clinical Vice Presidents, the WRHA Regional Director for Clinical Education and Continuing Professional Development, and the WRHA Senior Director Quality and System Performance will also be members (ex officio).

ORGANIZATION

1. A WRHA VP designated by the Board shall Chair the Committee.
2. Meetings will be held monthly at least nine (8) times a year and at the call of the Chair

COMMUNICATION

An annual report of PAC activities will be submitted to the Board. Minutes of meetings will also be distributed to all Committees listed in the Membership. Members are

responsible for ensuring the flow of information to and from the committee and the constituencies they represent.