



# Heart Health and Cardiac Services



## *Together, we help patients manage their heart health.*

*While heart patients are cared for in a variety of locations on Vancouver Island, the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, is the Heart Health Centre of Excellence for tertiary care. We are well known in Canada for providing leading interventional procedures; elder friendly initiatives; and our outpatient rehabilitation programs/clinics.*

**Post Open Heart Surgery Recovery Ward** is a 16-bed telemetry unit where open heart surgery patients are cared for while they recover following surgery. This unit is located on the third floor of our eight floor newly built state of the art Patient care Center.

**Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVU)** is an 9-bed unit, where an average combination of 3-5 open heart, thoracic/abdominal aneurysm or laser lead surgeries are accommodated on a daily basis.

**Coronary Care Unit (CCU)** is an 8-bed unit caring for critically ill medical cardiac patients who are unstable and require intensive monitoring and interventions. Examples include: post myocardial infarction, heart failure and arrhythmia care and cardiac arrest management including hypothermia therapy, and ventilator management.

**Medical Cardiology** is a 32 bed telemetry unit which is located adjacent to the post open heart recovery ward within the new Patient care Tower. This unit's team cares for patients with a variety of cardiac illnesses and specializes in arrhythmia management. A pacemaker program is also part of the care delivery model encompassed by this team as is the highly recognized same-day cardiac surgical admission education program.

**Cardiac Short Stay** is an 18-bed, 6-stretcher chair recovery unit for patients post heart catheterization and electrophysiology procedures. We are the first centre in Canada to implement a new chair recovery model following diagnostic and interventional procedures and are able to do this due to our 95% use of radial artery access for heart catheterization.

**Electrophysiology (EP) and Heart Catheterization (HC) Labs** – In 2 EP labs and 2 HC labs, we diagnose and treat patients for a wide spectrum of cardiac disorders. Our EP Lab specializes in diagnosis and treatment of complex arrhythmias and leads the country in pulmonary vein isolation procedures. The HC Lab is internationally recognized for its innovative radial artery access approach for diagnostic and complex interventional procedures and for providing a Cardiology Fellowship program.

**Echocardiography Lab** (Campbell River, Comox, Nanaimo & Victoria) – At each lab one to three types of echocardiography procedures (regular, stress and Transesophageal) are completed. Regular Echocardiogram use non-invasive ultrasound-based technology to record images of the heart to analyze structure, function and overall cardiac performance. Our lab uses Digital Echo and is exploring the use of contrast echo in the near future.





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**Electrodiagnostics** (throughout VIHA) provides cardiac related diagnostic tests, such as electrocardiogram (ECG), holter monitoring, and exercise treadmill tests.

**Cardiac Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Program** (Victoria) teaches individuals about their disease, symptoms and management. Our emphasis is assisting patients through our prevention outpatient program to make lifestyle changes such as quitting smoking, increasing physical activity, and eating healthy. Our multidisciplinary team includes a cardiologist, psychiatrist, nurse clinicians, physiotherapists/exercise specialists, rehabilitation assistant, cardiology technician, dietitian and social worker.

**Heart Function Clinics** (Campbell River, Nanaimo & Victoria) provides collaborative care management and education through our interdisciplinary team: cardiologist (Victoria), Internists (Nanaimo and Campbell River), and nurse clinicians. The goal of the clinic is to support patients to improve their patient's quality of life and to help manage their heart function to the best of their abilities.

**Atrial Fibrillation Clinic** (Victoria) provides collaborative care management and education through our interdisciplinary team: electrophysiologists, nurse clinicians, and clinical pharmacist. The goal of this provincial initiative is to improve access for patients living with this rhythm disorder. The team has recently implemented an innovative medication titration package that enables the clinicians working in the AFC to assist EP physicians in management of AF patients, thus, reducing ER/GP visits and provision of standardized care of symptom management and improving quality of life.

**Pacemaker Clinics** (Campbell River, Nanaimo & Victoria) & Defibrillator Clinic provide evaluation and ongoing follow-up for patients with implanted pacemakers and defibrillators to ensure each device is working properly and to monitor life of the device.

**Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA)** with 18,000+ employees is one of BC's six health authorities providing comprehensive public health services to the 760,000+ residents of Vancouver Island.

**VIHA has been selected as one of the Top Employers in Canada and BC, *three years running!*** We offer an attractive remuneration, employer-paid benefits package, relocation assistance, ability to move between clinical settings as well as training and educational opportunities.

Whatever lifestyle you are looking for, we have it here on Vancouver Island. Urban, rural and remote communities, big city or small town – you choose. Come and enjoy one of Canada's mildest climates, surrounded by Pacific Ocean beaches where you can indulge in year-round outdoor activities or explore the many festivals and cultural events.

*It's a perfect time to explore the exciting career prospects we offer in our piece of paradise!*

