



Specialist Services Committee: Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund

Information Sheet

1) Introduction

The Specialist Services Committee (SSC) is a joint committee between Doctors of BC and the BC government, with regular representation from health authorities. SSC formed in 2006 under the Physician Master Agreement to help the Doctors of BC, BC government and health authorities collaborate on the delivery of specialist services and support improvement of the specialist care system in BC. www.sscbc.ca

The Ministry of Health, health authorities, SSC, and BC Patient Safety and Quality Council are currently exploring the development of a provincial approach to support the sustainability and spread of Enhanced Recovery. During this development period, the SSC has approved a short term Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund of \$221,000 to be used by March 31, 2017 to:

1. Maintain the Enhanced Recovery infrastructures already in place;
2. Support the launch of Enhanced Recovery in new sites; and
3. Help keep momentum going while provincial conversations take place.

The Enhanced Recovery Fund is designed to boost or supplement a site's current strategies, not address ongoing, operational needs.

In addition to the bridge fund, the SSC is maintaining a network of multi-disciplinary Enhanced Recovery advisors who are available to provide ad-hoc support and clinical, quality improvement, or implementation advice (appendix 1 lists current roster of advisors). The SSC is also maintaining the www.enhancedrecoverybc.ca website, which will continue to serve as a hub of BC Enhanced Recovery resources.

Applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis, as long as funds are available. Applicant sites are encouraged to submit one application with all anticipated activity for the fiscal year 2016/17, as funding may not be available for later submissions.

The SSC Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund review panel will consist of at least one clinician champion representing each of surgery, anesthesia, and nursing/administration, as well as an SSC staff.

Review and approval of applications will begin on May 23, 2016.

2) Objectives

The Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund must be used to address one of the following objectives:

- Maintain the Enhanced Recovery infrastructures currently in place (ie. maintaining structures and momentum)
- Support the launch of Enhanced Recovery programs (ie. spreading to new sites or service lines)
- Support the development of new Enhanced Recovery pathways and/or processes of care (ie. improving the protocol and spreading Enhanced Recovery to new procedures)

3) Eligibility

Any BC hospital (site) with an assigned physician lead that is implementing or planning to implement Enhanced Recovery is eligible to apply.

4) Criteria

Applications will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- Applications must align with the at least one of the objectives listed above.
- Funds will only be approved for eligible expenses (see below).
- Funded activities must occur such that funds are expended by March 31, 2017.

5) Budget & Eligible Expenses

The Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund is designed to complement or reinforce a site's current Enhanced Recovery strategy and resources. Therefore, funds should be used for one-time, short term expenses that align with the Fund's objectives.

a) Examples of eligible activities and expenses:

- Education sessions (including travel for speakers, catering, continuing professional development application fee)
- Site visits (travel for team member(s) to visit another BC site for learning purposes, or for an advisor to visit a site and share expertise)
- Specialist Physician champion time¹ for meetings
- Data auditing (see below (b) for special conditions)
- Community of Practice (or other clinical) meetings to develop guidance, new pathways and/or processes of care, share experiences

The above examples of eligible activities are not exhaustive. If your site has other ideas for the funds, which adhere to the eligibility criteria (#4), please feel free to propose them.

¹ Rates noted for Physician Compensation are based on the Physician Master Agreement rates as of April 1, 2016.

If you are unsure whether your request includes an eligible expense, please contact Angie Chan, SSC Project Manager, Surgical Improvement, to discuss (information below).

b) Special conditions for funds used for data auditing

The SSC recognizes the critical role of data auditing to support quality improvement and fuller implementation of the Enhanced Recovery protocol. The Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund will provide financial support for data auditing with special conditions. The amount of funding will be determined by volume of cases projected for data collection at a rate of \$45 per case².

Sites requesting funds for data auditing must use the data for quality improvement purposes and submit a data auditing plan. Deviations from this plan during the funding period will need to be submitted in writing.

The data auditing plan must address:

- Who will be assigned to audit the data?
- Which process and outcome measures will you collect³?
- How frequently will data be audited?
- What processes will be used to collect, review, and use the data for quality improvement purposes?
- Will you be collecting data on all patients or sampling? If sampling, please describe your methodology and rationale.

c) The SSC Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund *will not* support:

- Operational staffing, such as nurse time or a project manager
- Clinical time
- Duplication of services and/or projects
- Activities that have secured funding through other sources

6) Reporting & Evaluation

There is a reporting and evaluation requirement for all sites receiving support from the SSC Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund. This reporting and evaluation component enables the SSC to better understand its contribution to Enhanced Recovery in BC. The SSC will provide a reporting template and evaluation tool to complete. The SSC will make

² Rate is based on average per case audit time (collection and entry) and data support hourly rate, as reported by sample of BC sites implementing Enhanced Recovery. Average per case audit time is 1 hour; average hourly rate for data support staff is \$45/hour.

³ For elective colorectal surgery, sites are encouraged to collect the data elements that were defined for the Enhanced Recovery Collaborative. This data set is currently being updated and a revised version should be available in early summer. To review the current version, please visit <http://enhancedrecoverybc.ca/data-collection-reporting/>

reasonable efforts to make the reporting and evaluation requirements simple to complete and commensurate with the funded activity.

In addition to the above reporting and evaluation requirements, at the end of the funded period, sites that received funds for data auditing will be required to provide a report on the changes observed in adherence to the processes of care and the outcomes during the funded period. The report should include quantitative results and the lessons learned about implementation. Templates for this report will be provided to sites, as applicable.

All reports will be used for learning purposes by the SSC. Any data received by the SSC will not be shared publicly without the consent of the contributing site.

7) Disbursement of Funds

Funds will be disbursed directly from the SSC to the applicant site and/or physicians per the terms below.

- a. Physician sessional time will be claimed directly by the physician to the SSC. A physician sessional claim form will be provided.
- b. Funding for one-time expenses will be provided on a reimbursement basis according to the guidelines set out by the SSC. Guidelines will be provided to successful applicants.

8) Endorsement from Appropriate Authorized Official at Health Authority

In order to foster transparency and alignment of work, the SSC requires health authority endorsement of site applications and acceptance of approved funds.

On behalf of the health authority, an appropriate authorized official will be required to sign a site's application as well as an agreement between the health authority and the Doctors of BC regarding the terms and conditions of funding, if the application is successful. The appropriate signatory should be an individual at the director level or above who oversees the regional Enhanced Recovery activities of the health authority.

To confirm, funds will be disbursed directly from the SSC to the applicant site and/or physicians per the terms outlined in #7.

Questions?

If you have questions about the SSC Enhanced Recovery Bridge Fund and/or need help completing your application, please contact *Angie Chan, SSC Project Manager, Surgical Improvement*, achan@doctorsofbc.ca, 604-638-5768 or join the **information session** via webex on **May 4 from 2-3pm**. Please sign-up for the information session by emailing Angie Chan. Webex login information will be sent to confirmed participants.