

NEWS RELEASE

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Significant steps taken, but Interior Health could manage surgical resources more efficiently, says B.C.'s Auditor General

VICTORIA – Interior Health Authority does not have all necessary systems in place but is taking steps to optimize the use of resources to provide efficient and effective surgical services, says Auditor General John Doyle in a report released today entitled Interior Health Authority: Working to Improve Access to Surgical Services.

Doyle noted that Interior Health has taken some significant steps to better manage surgical services. For instance a Surgical Council was set up in 2004 and has accomplished several key tasks including implementing pre-surgical screening and an operating room management system. Says Doyle “all of these initiatives are important means of improving surgical service delivery.”

However, Interior Health has not provided clear direction for the surgical program. While there has been encouraging progress, work is still needed to achieve an integrated regional surgical program, said Doyle.

The Auditor General makes 12 recommendations toward continued improvement of surgical services at Interior Health in the areas of capacity planning, effective management, information systems and public reporting. Key among them is the need to standardize equipment and surgical policies and practices across sites, the need for a clear role for Surgical Council in managing surgical services regionally, and the need for public reporting of performance.

This report is available on the Auditor General's website www.bcauditor.com.

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2008/09 Report #6 – Interior Health: working to improve access to surgical services.

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