

# **Terms of Reference Overcapacity Working Group (OCP)**

## **November, 2006**

### **Background**

Overcapacity protocols are being developed and put in place by health authorities across BC. Mandated by the Ministry of Health the intent of these protocols is to offload admitted patients from the emergency room (ER) to wards and other areas of the hospital when regular in-patient beds are not available and when ERs reach gridlock conditions. Patients are moved from the ER to other areas regardless of staffing levels or patient acuity on the designated wards. The BCNU Council recognizes the dilemma it creates for nurses and the impact it has on the safety of patients.

### **Purpose**

1. To develop and recommend the adoption of a BCNU policy statement on the impact of OCP on BCNU members across the province.
2. To develop and recommend a year long plan to Council which includes: specific short and long term goals and objectives, concrete strategies, timeframe and implementation targets and evaluation mechanisms – to be reviewed and adopted by Council January 2007.
3. To develop and recommend to Council an education and communication strategy for members that would assist in helping them with issues associated with workload management.
4. To initiate research on the extent and impact of OCP thorough the review of current outstanding PRFs, current OCP policies and past-data collection on the impact of OCP in certain facilities (February 2006).
5. To identify specific alternatives to OCP and establish recommendations for Council's consideration.
6. To present any pertinent findings and recommendations to the Ministry of Health and health authorities.

### **Meetings**

Meetings will be conducted as necessary as determined by the Chair, upon recommendation by the working group or as directed by the BCNU Council.

### **Accountability**

The OCP working group will consist of representation from as many BCNU regions as possible as determined by the Chair. Each member will be responsible for

communicating directly to their Regional Chair and will operate as a regional designate on the committee. The OCP working group will be directly accountable to the BCNU Council.

### **Membership**

Melanie Leckovic – Chair

### **Participants**

Jo Taylor – Nanaimo Regional General Hospital - PR  
Lori Anthony – Kelowna General Hospital - OS  
Lindsay Babic – Prince George Regional Hospital - NW  
Deb Thomson – Royal Jubilee Hospital - SI  
Harold McCarthy – St. Paul’s Hospital - VM  
Carol Otto - Peace Arch Hospital - SoF  
Kathy Treherne – Vancouver General Hospital  
Suzanne Campbell – Trail Regional Hospital – WK  
Sara Johl – Richmond General Hospital - RIVA  
Jennifer Upper – Royal Columbian Hospital – SF  
Vanessa Evens – Prince George Regional Hospital – NW