

## Who is Parkinson Society British Columbia?

Parkinson Society British Columbia (PSBC) is the voice of British Columbians living with Parkinson's. Our purpose is to ease the burden through advocacy, education and support services, while pursuing the search for a cure by investing in promising research. We believe that every person touched by Parkinson's deserves to know that they are not alone in their journey. *You are not alone. We are here to help.*

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is committed to offering support, sharing reliable information and raising funds for programs and research. We are part of a strong community united in our dedication to improve the lives of those affected by Parkinson's.

## What is PD Connect?

PD Connect is a referral program intended to help healthcare professionals connect individuals diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and their carepartners, to Parkinson Society British Columbia's support services at the time of diagnosis or at any point in the disease's progression.

## Why is there a need for PD Connect?

The number of those diagnosed with PD increases every year. To date there are approximately 13,000 British Columbians living with PD; this number is predicted to double by 2040 ([Dorsey & Bloem, 2018](#)). With the increasing number of patients diagnosed with PD, greater pressure is placed on our healthcare system, specifically on the limited number of movement disorder specialists. The lack of available resources results in longer waitlists, leaving more patients without adequate care.

PSBC is the leading provincial organization supporting people with Parkinson's (PwP) and their carepartners at every stage of the disease. In a 2017 survey for PwP and for those caring for PwP, PSBC was ranked the number one resource for education and support on Parkinson's disease, followed by the Internet and movement disorder specialists. The Society is a valued resource for those affected by the disease; however, only 23% of PwP and carepartners were made aware of PSBC through a healthcare professional.

Feedback from our fifty support groups across the province indicates that individuals would have preferred to be informed of the Society at the time of diagnosis. Being connected with the Society earlier on has helped individuals increase their knowledge of the disease, gain access to reliable PD literature and resources, obtain free counselling services, join a support group and grow their network of allied healthcare professionals, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and trained exercise professionals.

The PD Connect program provides people with Parkinson's, and their carepartners, the support services they need, want and deserve earlier in the disease's progression. Ultimately, PD Connect bridges the gap in the system and aims to help patients (and support healthcare professionals) by connecting them to support and learning opportunities.

### What does PD Connect do for patients?

- Connect individuals who have recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's to community-based support services
- Provide proactive consultations and counselling for individuals affected by Parkinson's, including carepartners and family members
- Empower social connection through provincial support groups
- Provide earlier access to quality publications, as well as information about education events and programs available throughout the province
- Provide emotional support to patients and their families through the knowledge that they are not alone

### What does PD Connect do for healthcare professionals?

- Simple formal referral system
- Patient support between clinical visits
- Updates about Parkinson's disease education and support services opportunities
- Knowledge that your patient is connected to a reliable support services team that will provide them with the tools to more effectively manage the disease

### The referral process to PD Connect is simple:

1. Ask the individual with Parkinson's or their family member for permission to forward their basic contact information through PD Connect to Parkinson Society British Columbia
2. Complete a referral form and fax to Parkinson Society British Columbia at 604-687-1327

### For more information and referral forms:

- Call Parkinson Society British Columbia at 604-662-3240 or 1-800-668-3330
- Fax requests to 604-687-1327
- Email [info@parkinson.bc.ca](mailto:info@parkinson.bc.ca)
- Visit [www.parkinson.bc.ca](http://www.parkinson.bc.ca)