

## LEAN process improves VGH dialysis centre

The Independent Dialysis Centre at Vancouver General Hospital was re-organized and improved following changes made as part of a recent LEAN initiative.

The centre provides a teaching site for home hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients, beds and space for the nocturnal independent HD program, and space for drop-in patient visits. It also has space for in-centre HD patients for times when that unit is full.

Prior to LEAN, the centre wasn't configured to handle the increasing number of independent dialysis patients and to support the Renal Agency's growth targets for independent therapies. Patients were often cared for in temporary spaces and bed borrowing was common.

Through the LEAN process, the centre developed more efficient storage systems for supplies and located supplies closer to where they were required. The result was a reduction from seven storage areas to just four. More efficient use of space also freed up areas to accommodate an increased number of patient stations.

Today the centre's nocturnal independent hemodialysis program is operating at capacity with eight patients dialyzing three nights a week.

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