

Date: April 18, 2017

Subject: **Update re Alignment of Child Health Tiers of Service Numbering System**

Child Health BC has been working actively with partners across the province to develop the Child Health Tiers of Service system and service planning tools. In that work, 6 tiers have been identified using a numbering system from 1a through 4. In consultation with the Child Health BC Steering Committee, Child Health BC has decided to re-number the Tiers numbering system.

**What is changing?**

The new numbering system will continue to recognize six tiers, but the tiers will be numbered Tier 1 through Tier 6.

OLD NUMBERING SYSTEM	NEW NUMBERING SYSTEM
T1a	T1
T1b	T2
T2	T3
T3a	T4
T3b	T5
T4	T6

Perinatal Services BC is considering adapting a similar numbering system for the Maternal/Fetal and Newborn Tiers of Service pending further discussions and work on the logistics.

**What is not changing?**

While the numbering of the tiers has changed, the content of each tier is unchanged. Similarly, the relationship between the tiers is the same as in previous modules.

**Why change?**

There are several benefits to changing the numbering system, including:

- T1 to T6 is more intuitive and easier to remember (our experience with using T1 to T4 was that people would forget whether the "a" or "b" applied to T1, T2, T3 or T4).
- Tendency by some to equate T1 to T4 with primary (T1), secondary (T2), tertiary (T3) and quaternary (T4) services. This interpretation is not accurate; e.g., some primary services are not T1 and some T4 services are not quaternary services. T1 to T6 will eliminate this temptation.
- T1 to T6 is consistent with the tier levels used in other jurisdictions, which have led the way in this work, such as Australia.

**When will the change occur?**

- The change is effective immediately.
- The medical and surgical modules have been completed. The numbering system in the module has been converted to the new system.
- There are several modules under development and these new modules will utilize the new numbering system.
- Child Health BC will work with the Provincial Emergency Services Advisory Committee and the Provincial Children's Tiers ED Working Group to determine a plan and timeline for conversion of the ED module (the ED module and self-assessment has already been completed).

Please check out our website ([www.childhealthbc.ca](http://www.childhealthbc.ca)) and check out the “Tiers of Service” information. There you will find all completed modules and related materials.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions at [modonnell@cw.bc.ca](mailto:modonnell@cw.bc.ca).