



# CARDIAC CARE

## Specialty Nursing Education (SNE) Pathway

This document outlines a recommended path to support your specialty nursing career journey at Fraser Health.

## Getting started in Cardiac Care

The **Cardiac Care** Career Pathway was established through a partnership between Learning Strategies and the Cardiac Network.

This pathway offers a recommended approach to your specialty nursing career journey with Fraser Health. You decide where to begin, and you can enter or exit the pathway whenever needed.

Each person's journey into specialty nursing will be unique.

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## What is Cardiac Care?

The Fraser Health cardiac network operates across tertiary sites, community hospitals, and outpatient clinics providing staff with diverse opportunities to grow cardiac nursing skills. Cardiac nursing is a dynamic and multifaceted specialty that spans a continuum of care, from acute interventions to chronic disease management.

As a cardiac nurse, you will develop expertise in cardiovascular pathophysiology, pharmacology and complex continuous telemetry monitoring. Cardiac nurses work collaboratively with interdisciplinary teams to optimize outcomes for patients with heart disease.

### **Cardiac Nursing practice in Fraser Health includes several distinct levels:**

- Level 1 - Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)
- Level 2 - Cardiac High Acuity
- Level 3 - Medicine/Telemetry

### **Level 1 - Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)**

The CSICU at Royal Columbian Hospital is a hybrid unit where you will care for both cardiac surgical open heart surgery (OHS) and cardiac medical (ST-elevation myocardial infarctions (STEMI) angiography) patients requiring critical care intervention. We are a highly specialized unit at only CSICU in Fraser Health.

As a CSICU nurse, you will first learn the skills to monitor and manage the care needs of a patient requiring critical care such as invasive ventilation, vasoactive infusions and continuous cardiac monitoring.

You will then be provided the opportunity to learn advanced skills and the associated care required:

- Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump (IABP) for cardiac support
- Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) for advanced organ support
- Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) for full heart and lung support

CSICU nurses also receive Cardiac Surgery Unit – Advanced Life Support (CSU-ALS) Provider Training certification where they learn to assist in chest-reopening if a patient were to arrest post-open heart surgery. The specialized patient population and mix of cardiac surgical and medical make CSICU a unique place to develop and hone your nursing skills.

Fraser Health offers two streams of sponsored education programs for RNs wishing to pursue a career in a level 1 CSICU

- [Fraser Health's Critical Care Program \(CCP\)](#), or
- [BCIT Critical Care Program](#)

The CCP and BCIT Critical Care curriculums prepare nurses with entry-level competencies suitable for novice critical care nursing practice.

## **Level 2 - Cardiac High Acuity**

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### **Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)**

Cardiac Care Units (CCU) are a specialized high acuity environment focused on the management of patients with life-threatening cardiac conditions. Nurses in the CCU provide intensive telemetry monitoring for individuals experiencing unstable acute coronary syndromes, complex arrhythmias, cardiogenic shock and post-interventional recovery following cardiac procedures. CCU nurses are skilled in advanced ECG interpretation, hemodynamic monitoring, vasoactive medications, and emergency response protocols (ACLS).

Fraser Health Cardiac Care Units:

- Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre
- Eagle Ridge Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital

### **Cardiac Catheterization Lab**

Cardiac Catheterization Lab (Cath Lab) nursing is a fast-paced, highly technical specialty where you will work closely with an interdisciplinary team to diagnose and treat complex heart conditions. Using advanced imaging, minimally invasive procedures, and state-of-the-art equipment, Cath Lab nurses provide care for patients undergoing interventions such as angioplasty, stenting, structural heart procedures, and electrophysiology studies. You will develop expertise in hemodynamic monitoring, assisting during emergent cardiac events, and supporting patients and families throughout high-acuity procedures.

Fraser Health's Cath Labs serve both planned and urgent cases, including ST-elevation myocardial infarctions (STEMIs) requiring rapid, life-saving intervention. Nurses in the Cath Lab thrive in a collaborative environment, balancing precision, critical thinking, and compassionate care to achieve the best outcomes for cardiac patients.

Fraser Health Cardiac Catheterization Labs:

- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital

### **Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU)**

Information coming soon.

### **Day Cardiac Intervention Unit (DCIU)**

The Day Cardiac Intervention Unit (DCIU) provides specialized pre- and post-procedure care for patients undergoing a wide range of cardiac diagnostic and interventional procedures. Staff on this unit also assist physicians with minor procedures such as transesophageal echocardiograms (TEE) and cardioversions. Nurses in DCIU play a key role in preparing patients for their procedures, including assessments, patient education, and medication administration, and monitoring them through recovery using advanced cardiac monitoring skills.

Working in DCIU offers a unique blend of outpatient flow and acute care readiness, as nurses must be prepared to recognize and respond quickly to changes in patient condition. The environment fosters strong patient relationships, interdisciplinary teamwork, and the opportunity to support individuals and families during an important step in their cardiac care journey.

Fraser Health Day Cardiac Intervention Unit:

- Royal Columbian Hospital

Fraser Health offers one stream of sponsored education for registered nurses (RNs) wishing to pursue a career in the level 2 cardiac high acuity setting - The Fraser Health in-house cardiac high acuity education pathway:

1. Accredited ECG education ([Mosby's ECG 4.0](#), or alternative)
2. [Core Learning in Critical Care](#) (CLCC)
3. [Advanced Cardiac Education](#) (ACE)

The cardiac high acuity education pathway allows for learners to gradually build upon advanced competencies where you will have the opportunity to complete education followed by a period of practice consolidation.

## **Level 3: Medicine/Telemetry**

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Telemetry nursing involves continuous cardiac monitoring for patients experiencing cardiac events such as myocardial infarctions, arrhythmias, or heart failure exacerbations. Additionally, telemetry units will provide pre and post cardiac interventional procedure care and management. Nurses in these units practice within the medical - surgical skills set and receive accredited dysrhythmia interpretation education. Telemetry nurses are skilled in interpreting electrocardiogram (ECG) rhythms and responding to changes in patient status. These units serve as a bridge between critical care and cardiac care units', requiring strong assessment skills and clinical decision making.

Fraser Health offers one stream of sponsored education for registered nurses (RNs) wishing to pursue a career in the level 3 medicine/telemetry unit: [Mosby's ECG 4.0 education](#) or an accredited alternative.

Sponsorship into Fraser Health in-house Mosby's ECG 4.0 education for purpose of working in cardiac level 3 is offered at the following sites:

- Delta Hospital: 2North
- Ridge Meadows Hospital: 3West
- Royal Columbian Hospital: 2North
- Langley Memorial Hospital: 1North
- Chilliwack General Hospital: 3North
- Peace Arch Hospital: 4North
- Burnaby Hospital: 3Central



**Self-reflection:** Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.

## Early Exposure

See what it's all about.

[Learn more >](#)

Nursing students\*

## Employed Student Nurse

Get paid clinical experience before you graduate from your Baccalaureate nursing program.

[Learn more >](#)

## Final Preceptorship

Completion of a final clinical consolidation as part of your Baccalaureate nursing program.

[Learn more >](#)

## New Graduate

Build knowledge, confidence and competence during your transition from student to RN.

[Learn more >](#)

## Work Experience / Transition Line

Supported acute practice and readiness education to prepare you for transition into specialty nursing training.

[Learn more >](#)

## Specialty Nursing Education (SNE)

Get sponsored to become specialized in cardiac care – we'll pay 100% of your tuition and full-time wages.\*\*

[Learn more >](#)

## Practice as a specialty-trained RN in cardiac

You've completed your SNE and are now specialized in cardiac care – congratulations!

You will have novice competencies as a beginner in this specialty area.

**This pathway offers a recommended approach** to your specialty nursing career journey with Fraser Health. You decide where to begin, and you can enter or exit the pathway whenever needed. Each person's journey into specialty nursing will be unique.

Learn more about each step by selecting '[Learn more >](#)' or simply follow the steps in sequence throughout this document.

### The Cardiac Network standardized framework

Within the Cardiac Network, nurses may work in a variety of care settings depending on where they are at in their cardiac career pathway. [Learn more >](#)

#### Cardiac Level 4

- Cardiac ambulatory clinics

#### Cardiac Level 3

- Medicine / Telemetry

#### Cardiac Level 2

- Cardiac high acuity (CCU, DCIU, Cath Lab, Cardiac ICU, ICRU, EP lab etc.)

#### Cardiac Level 1

- Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)

\*Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students

\*\*Eligibility and some conditions may apply for SNE.

## Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs)



Nurses trained outside of Canada can participate in the [New Entrant Program](#). You are encouraged to have a readiness conversation with a cardiac manager to map out your nursing career pathway. [Learn more >](#)

## Cardiac Care Pathway

### Early Exposure

#### What is Early Exposure?

Nursing students may obtain exposure to specialty practice areas through early acute care learning experiences embedded within their basic nursing programs, coordinated by their Post-Secondary Institution.

#### Requirements

You must be enrolled in a Baccalaureate Registered Nursing (RN) Program (ie. BSN)

*Self-reflection: Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.*

### Employed Student Nurse (ESN)

#### What is an Employed Student Nurse?

Get hired by Fraser Health to gain paid, clinical job experience before you graduate from your Baccalaureate nursing program.

#### What does this mean for Cardiac Care?

No specific education is required. However, preference may be given to candidates with accredited electrocardiogram (ECG) education.

#### Optional courses and training for Cardiac Care

It is optional to take the following course as a prerequisite for Specialty Nursing Education for cardiac nursing practice:

- British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT): [Nursing Specialty Critical Care \(NSCC\) 7150 - Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management](#)
  - Self-sponsored
  - Format: online, 12 weeks

#### Recommended Cardiac Care sites for ESN experience

Considering practicing in the following cardiac care area(s) as an ESN to consolidate your ECG education:

- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 3 (Medicine / Telemetry) unit, including:
  - Delta Hospital: 2North
  - Ridge Meadows Hospital: 3West
  - Royal Columbian Hospital: 2North
  - Langley Memorial Hospital: 1North
  - Chilliwack General Hospital: 3North

- Peace Arch Hospital: 4North
- Burnaby Hospital: 3Central
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 2 (Cardiac High Acuity) unit, including:
  - Eagle Ridge Hospital:
    - Monitored Care Unit (MCU)
  - Surrey Memorial Hospital:
    - Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
    - Cardiac Catheterization Lab
  - Abbotsford Regional Hospital:
    - Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
  - Royal Columbian Hospital:
    - Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU)
    - Cardiac Surgery Step-Down (2South)
    - Cardiac Catheterization Lab
    - Day Cardiac Intervention Unit (DCIU)
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 1 (Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care) unit, including:
  - Royal Columbian Hospital:
    - Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)

[Learn more](#) about becoming an ESN at Fraser Health.

If you require more information, please reach out to [Student.Placement@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Student.Placement@fraserhealth.ca)

**Self-reflection:** *Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.*

## Final Preceptorship

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### What is Final Preceptorship?

Final preceptorship happens during the completion of your final clinical consolidation as part of your Baccalaureate nursing program. Learners may consider preceptorship options to align with future career laddering plans. Placement on the same unit as previous ESN work is possible through mutual agreement between learner, post-secondary institution and unit manager.

*Note:* Final preceptorships must only be arranged through formal channels of communication between the post-secondary institution and Fraser Health (i.e. HSPnet). Connect with your BSN clinical coordinator at your post-secondary institution for more information.

BSN Learning Pathway (LP) opportunity exists in cardiac. Connect with your BSN LP lead at your post-secondary institution for more information.

### What does this mean for Cardiac Care?

No specific education is required. However, preference may be given to candidates with accredited electrocardiogram (ECG) education.

**Optional courses and training for Cardiac Care**

It is optional to take the following course as a prerequisite for Specialty Nursing Education for cardiac nursing practice:

- British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT): [Nursing Specialty Critical Care \(NSCC\) 7150](#) - Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
  - Self-sponsored
  - Format: online, 12 weeks

**Recommended Cardiac Care sites for Final Preceptorship experience:**

Considering practicing in the following cardiac care area(s) as a final preceptorship student to consolidate your ECG education:

- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 3 (Medicine / Telemetry) unit, including:
  - Delta Hospital: 2North
  - Ridge Meadows Hospital: 3West
  - Royal Columbian Hospital: 2North
  - Langley Memorial Hospital: 1North
  - Chilliwack General Hospital: 3North
  - Peace Arch Hospital: 4North
  - Burnaby Hospital: 3Central
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 2 (Cardiac High Acuity) unit, including:
  - Eagle Ridge Hospital:
    - Monitored Care Unit (MCU)
  - Surrey Memorial Hospital:
    - Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
    - Cardiac Catheterization Lab
  - Abbotsford Regional Hospital:
    - Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
  - Royal Columbian Hospital:
    - Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU)
    - Cardiac Surgery Step-Down (2South)
    - Cardiac Catheterization Lab
    - Day Cardiac Intervention Unit (DCIU)
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 1 (Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care) unit, including:
  - Royal Columbian Hospital:
    - Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)

[Learn more](#) about student placements.

**Self-reflection:** *Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.*

## New Graduate

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### What is a New Graduate?

Grow your knowledge, confidence and clinical competence as you transition from student to registered nurse.

New graduates are hired into a 0.7–1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) position (for at least six months) and are supported through supernumerary time, structured education and dedicated mentorship.

You will also participate in New Graduate Program workshops throughout your first year, designed to help you thrive, build resilience and manage the challenges of your new role.

Throughout this period, your manager and educator will meet with you to support you through this stage and the stages that follow.

### What does this mean for Cardiac Care?

No specific education is required. However, preference may be given to candidates with accredited electrocardiogram (ECG) education.

### Required courses and training for Cardiac Care

At some point of your new graduate nursing journey, you will be required to take one of the two following courses as a prerequisite for cardiac care:

- British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT): [Nursing Specialty Critical Care \(NSCC\) 7150](#) - Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
  - Self-sponsored
  - Format: online, 12 weeks; or
- Fraser Health's [Mosby's ECG 4.0](#) Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management Program
  - Fraser Health sponsored
  - Format: online for 5.5 weeks and three (3) in-person sessions

### Recommended Cardiac Care sites for New Graduate experience:

Considering practicing in the following cardiac care area(s) as a new graduate RN to consolidate your ECG education:

- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 3 (Medicine / Telemetry) unit, including:
  - Delta Hospital: 2North
  - Ridge Meadows Hospital: 3West
  - Royal Columbian Hospital: 2North
  - Langley Memorial Hospital: 1North
  - Chilliwack General Hospital: 3North
  - Peace Arch Hospital: 4North
  - Burnaby Hospital: 3Central
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 2 (Cardiac High Acuity) unit, including:
  - Eagle Ridge Hospital:
    - Monitored Care Unit (MCU)
  - Surrey Memorial Hospital:

- Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
  - Cardiac Catheterization Lab
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital:
  - Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
- Royal Columbian Hospital:
  - Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU)
  - Cardiac Surgery Step-Down (2South)
  - Cardiac Catheterization Lab
  - Day Cardiac Intervention Unit (DCIU)
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 1 (Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care) unit, including:
  - Royal Columbian Hospital:
    - Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)

[Learn more](#) about the New Graduate Nurse Program.

If you require more information, please reach out to [NurseNEP@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:NurseNEP@fraserhealth.ca)

**Self-reflection:** *Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.*

## Work Experience / Transition Line

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### What is work experience or a transition line?

As you begin your role, you will work towards consolidating your skills and gaining work experience in an acute setting as preparation for specialty nursing practice. You will receive support to attend clinical readiness education covering essential skills, including peripheral IV insertion and central line management.

When available, transition lines allow you to work in the specialty care area at your current level of competence while you consolidate towards registration in Specialty Nursing Education within 6-12 months, or a mutually agreed-upon timeframe with your leadership.



To view and apply for available transition line opportunities on the unit, visit the [Fraser Health Careers website](#) or MyCareer Hub (internal portal) and search for “*transition line – cardiac*”.

### What does this mean for Cardiac Care?

During your cardiac care work experience or transition line nursing experience, you can expect to participate in an:

- An accredited ECG program
- Core Learning in Critical Care (CLCC), if you are practicing on a cardiac level 2 high acuity unit and potentially a level 1 Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care unit, although not an expectation for CSICU

**Required courses and training for Cardiac Care**

At some point in your work experience/transition line nursing journey in cardiac care, you will be required to take one of the following two accredited ECG courses as a prerequisite for cardiac care nursing practice.

- British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT): [Nursing Specialty Critical Care \(NSCC\) 7150](#) - Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
  - Self-sponsored
  - Format: online, 12 weeks; or
- Fraser Health's [Mosby's ECG 4.0](#) Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
  - Fraser Health sponsored
  - Format: online for 5.5 weeks and three (3) in-person sessions

**Recommendation:** Consolidate ECG practice for a minimum of three (3) months in a setting that provides consistent telemetry prior to advancing competencies.

If you are practicing in a transition line on a cardiac level 2 high acuity unit, you will be enrolled into the [Core Learning in Critical Care \(CLCC\)](#) – a theory course with a focus on introducing the learner to advanced competencies, including oxygen supply and demand, comprehensive patient assessment, central line and arterial line management. If you are practicing in a transition line on a level 1 CSICU, you may be enrolled into CLCC.

- Core Learning in Critical Care (CLCC)
  - Fraser Health sponsored
  - Format: full-time over three (3) weeks, Monday-Friday in a blended learning model including online and in-person session.
  - You will need to consolidate CLCC theory for 1-3 months on a Cardiac level 2 High Acuity unit, or a level 1 CSICU (pending transition line hiring site), and have a readiness conversation with your clinical manager and CNE prior to advancing competencies.

**Recommended Cardiac Care sites for Work/Transition Line experience:**

- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 3 (Medicine / Telemetry) unit, including:
  - Delta Hospital: 2North
  - Ridge Meadows Hospital: 3West
  - Royal Columbian Hospital: 2North
  - Langley Memorial Hospital: 1North
  - Chilliwack General Hospital: 3North
  - Peace Arch Hospital: 4North
  - Burnaby Hospital: 3Central
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 2 (Cardiac High Acuity) unit, including:
  - Eagle Ridge Hospital:
    - Monitored Care Unit (MCU)
  - Surrey Memorial Hospital:
    - Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)

- Cardiac Catheterization Lab
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital:
  - Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)
- Royal Columbian Hospital:
  - Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU)
  - Cardiac Surgery Step-Down (2South)
  - Cardiac Catheterization Lab
  - Day Cardiac Intervention Unit (DCIU)
- Any Fraser Health Cardiac level 1 (Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care) unit, including:
  - Royal Columbian Hospital:
    - Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)

**Self-reflection:** Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.

## **Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs)**

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All internationally educated nurses (IENs) will be screened to determine qualifications for the specialty care area. Based on previous experience, IENs may be hired into either a transition line (if available) or a specialty-qualified line.

For those who are eligible, the [New Entrant Program](#) provides a paid, supported transition into practice within Canada's health care system.

Start your career at Fraser Health with a minimum of 132 supernumerary hours and 9.5 hours of program-funded education. These experiences support the development of a competency-based learning plan aligned with your career goals. You'll build on your international nursing experience while engaging in interactive educational workshops and simulation sessions.

## Specialty Nursing Education (SNE)

### What is Specialty Nursing Education?

Registered nurses (RN) can get sponsored to complete Specialty Nursing Education programs at Fraser Health, and we'll pay 100% of your tuition and full-time wages. Some eligibility and conditions apply.

If you require more information, please reach out to [SNE@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:SNE@fraserhealth.ca)

### Planning your next steps

At this stage, you will have completed an accredited ECG program and, where applicable, the CLCC course if you are practicing in a Cardiac Level 2 high-acuity or potentially level 1 CSICU environment. Please review the table below outlining the different levels of cardiac nursing practice to help determine your next steps.

### The Cardiac Network

The Fraser Health Cardiac Network utilizes a standardized framework for cardiac care delivery across the region, promoting consistency, safety and coordinated care across acute, ambulatory and community-based services. This framework is reflected using distinct levels of care ranging from levels 1 - 4.

CARDIAC	Details	Settings	Required SNE
<b>Level 4</b>	Care is for ambulatory outpatients in a clinic setting who have experienced a cardiac event or have been identified as high risk for future cardiac events. These clinics deliver multidisciplinary, specialty-based care designed to optimize clinical outcomes, promote self-care, and support long-term cardiovascular health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiac Ambulatory Clinics (Cardiac rehabilitation, heart failure/function clinics, atrial fibrillation clinics, and lipid clinics)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Completion of dysrhythmia education and consolidation of cardiac competencies.</p>
<b>Level 3</b>	Care is for patients who are generally stable enough for medical management but may require continuous telemetry monitoring for suspected or confirmed cardiac conditions. Patients may be awaiting or recovering from cardiac procedures or diagnostics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicine Telemetry</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">BCIT NSCC 7150</a> or <a href="#">Mosby's ECG</a> or accredited equivalent</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Consolidate ECG practice for 3-months minimum in a setting that provides consistent cardiac telemetry monitoring prior to advancing competencies.</p>

CARDIAC	Details	Settings	Required SNE
<p><b>Level 2</b></p>	<p>Care is for patients who are unstable or at high risk of deterioration due to cardiac conditions or post-procedural complications. Patients require close monitoring, frequent assessments and urgent/emergent nursing interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiac Care Unit</li> <li>• Cardiac Catheterization Lab</li> <li>• Cardiac Intensive Care Unit</li> <li>• Day Cardiac Intervention Unit</li> <li>• Interventional Care and Recovery Unit (ICRU)</li> <li>• Electrophysiology lab (EP) lab</li> </ul>	<p>The cardiac education pathway, consisting of all three courses outlined below, allows for learners to gradually build upon advanced competencies where you will have the opportunity to complete education followed by a period of practice consolidation.</p> <div data-bbox="954 428 1468 764" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">BCIT NSCC 7150</a> or <a href="#">Mosby's ECG</a> or accredited equivalent  <b>Recommendation:</b> Consolidate ECG practice for 3-months minimum in a setting that provides consistent cardiac telemetry monitoring. Readiness conversation with clinical manager and CNE prior to advancing competencies</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Core Learning in Critical Care (CLCC)</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">Advanced Cardiac Education (ACE)</a>                      6 weeks, full-time: online, in-person and clinical consolidation</li> </ol>
<p><b>Level 1</b></p>	<p>Care is for patients who require intensive, continuous monitoring and intervention often involving support for two or more organ systems, including invasive or non-invasive ventilation, Extracorporeal membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump (IABL) or Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. <a href="#">BCIT: Critical Care Program</a>                      37 weeks (24 weeks online, 13 weeks full-time consisting of on-site education at the BCIT campus, simulation and clinical consolidation), or</li> <li>B. Fraser Health: Critical Care Program (CCP)                      In-house program offered over 19 weeks (5.5 weeks online, 13.5 weeks full-time consisting of online and in-person sessions, simulation and clinical consolidation.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> Bridge-in education options exist for BCIT and CCP for learners who have previously completed high acuity education. Eligibility for the bridge-in program is confirmed by the education institution.</p>

## Courses and Training

### BCIT NSCC 7150 Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management

This course builds foundational knowledge for analyzing and interpreting basic cardiac dysrhythmias. Learners study myocardial electrophysiology and develop a systematic approach to rhythm interpretation. The course also explores predisposing factors, consequences, and interventions for common conduction defects. Finally, it highlights the importance of dysrhythmia recognition and management in critical care nursing practice. Learners will continue to work on their unit while participating in BCIT NSCC 7150.

[Learn more](#) about this course offered through BCIT.

### Mosby's ECG 4.0 Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management

The Fraser Health Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management program commonly referred to as Mosby's ECG 4.0 is an approximately six-week primarily self-paced online program for registered nurses who have been hired to areas where they will be responsible for caring for patients on telemetry. Learners will continue to work on their unit while participating in Mosby's ECG 4.0.

**Pre-requisite:** RN status and employment with Fraser Health

#### Program details

- **Online (28 hours):** Includes 17 accredited content modules and a practice final exam.
- **Exam prep session (two (2) hours):** Optional attendance. Session helps to narrow down focus of study for the final exam.
- **Final exam (two (2) hours):** In-person exam with a minimum passing score of 80%. Learners get two attempts to write the exam and obtain the passing score.
- **Classroom Education Day (7.5 hours):** Optional attendance for CSICU learners, but highly recommended. In person (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Focused on:
  - Practicing dysrhythmia interpretation
  - Identifying dysrhythmia impact to cardiac output
  - Understanding patient assessments for dysrhythmias
  - Recognizing treatments for dysrhythmias
- **Simulation day (7.5 hours):** Optional attendance for CSICU learners, but highly recommended. In person (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Focused on:
  - Practicing dysrhythmia interpretation in real time
  - Recognizing deteriorating patients with high fidelity simulation mannequins
  - Understanding the roles and responsibilities of a tele nurse
  - Escalating care for deteriorating patients
  - Understanding appropriate treatments for dysrhythmias and what is within tele nurse scope.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive a certificate of completion for the Fraser Health Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management course. Learners will leave the program with knowledge and skills to perform as telemetry nurses at a novice level.

## Core Learning in Critical Care (CLCC)

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Core Learning in Critical Care (CLCC) is a three (3) week, full-time program, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for registered nurses who have been hired to cardiac high-acuity and is optional for CSICU. Learners obtain an entry level understanding of critical care competencies, which will support practice in caring for patients in an acute cardiac setting.

**Pre-requisite:** Accredited Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management course ([BCIT NSCC 7150](#) or Fraser Health's [Mosby's ECG 4.0](#))

### Program details

- Online theory (82.5 hours):
  - Essentials of Critical Care Orientation (29.5 hours) accredited modularized content
  - Regular synchronous online sessions with Clinical Nurse Educator's are included for discussion of online theory
  - Case studies (independent and group)
- Subject matter expert guest speakers
- Relevant LearningHub courses (4.5 hours)
- Skills and High Fidelity Simulation (30 hours): Includes hands on exposure for skills and interaction with high fidelity simulation equipment to support bridging from theory to practice.

For cardiac high acuity learners, CLCC is considered the pre-requisite for the Advanced Cardiac Education (ACE) program and hours for CLCC are included in the certificate received post ACE. **Learners do not have a change in competencies after CLCC is completed.** Learners will start to apply high-acuity nursing theory into clinical practice and consolidate knowledge from CLCC into their practice as they prepare for next steps in their specialty education journey.

## Advanced Cardiac Education (ACE)

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Advanced Cardiac Education (ACE) is Fraser Health's in-house cardiac high-acuity program. ACE is a six (6)-week, full-time program, with variable hours for registered nurses who have been hired to cardiac high-acuity areas. Learners are prepared with the practical and theoretical knowledge for entry level practice in a cardiac high-acuity environment.

- Fraser Health Return of Service agreement required: **Yes**

**Pre-requisites:** Accredited Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management course ([BCIT NSCC 7150](#) or Fraser Health's [Mosby's ECG 4.0](#)), and [Core Learning in Critical Care \(CLCC\)](#).

**Program details**

- **Online theory (64 hours):**
  - Essentials of Critical Care Orientation (16.5 hours) accredited modularized content
  - Regular synchronous online sessions with CNE are included for discussion of online theory
  - Case studies (independent and group)
- **Skills and High-Fidelity simulation (22 hours):** Includes hands on exposure for skills and interaction with high fidelity simulation equipment to support bridging from theory to practice.
- **Clinical practicum (131.5 hours):** Instructor led clinical at Abbotsford Regional Hospital (ARH), Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) or Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH). Shifts vary to support clinical hours. Shift differentials are paid.

Upon successful completion, students will receive a Certificate of Completion for the Fraser Health Advanced Cardiac Education (ACE) program. Learners will leave the program with knowledge and skills to practice as a novice qualified cardiac level 2 high acuity care nurse.

## **Fraser Health's Critical Care Program (CCP)**

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The CCP\*\* curriculum focuses on early socialization to the critical care setting where learners will have the opportunity to focus on theory, high fidelity simulation and clinical experiences each week. CCP offers flexibility for asynchronous learning with required synchronous sessions for guest expert speakers and regional clinical nurse educator lectures, in addition to in-person participation for simulation and clinical. Clinical consolidation will occur at a regional tertiary level ICU at critical care environment at Abbotsford Regional Hospital (ARH), Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) or Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) depending on the learners' sponsoring site.

- Fraser Health Return of Service agreement required: **Yes**

**Pre-requisite:** Accredited Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management course ([BCIT NSCC 7150](#) or Fraser Health's [Mosby's ECG 4.0](#))

**Program details**

- **13.5-week blended learning curriculum:**
  - Modularized accredited theory: Essentials of Critical Care Orientation (ECCO)
  - High fidelity simulation
  - Expert guest speakers
  - Regional clinical nurse educator lectures
  - Unique transition to home site
  - Clinical experience at a tertiary hospital (ARH, RCH, or SMH) via Instructor-led model
  - Competency based evaluation

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will receive a certificate of completion from ECCO and Fraser Health.

\*\*A modified CCP full-time curriculum is available to those who have previous high acuity or emergency education. Individual learner assessment by the CCP lead is required to confirm registration.

## BCIT Critical Care Nursing Specialty

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BCIT offers a [Critical Care Nursing Specialty program](#). The clinical component occurs at a regional tertiary level critical care environment at Abbotsford Regional Hospital, Royal Columbian Hospital or Surrey Memorial Hospital following an instructor-led model.

- Fraser Health Return of Service agreement required: **Yes**

### Pre-requisite:

- **24-weeks online:**
  - NSCC 7120 - Critical Care Theory 1
  - [NSCC 7150](#) - Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
  - NSCC 7220 - Critical Care Theory 2

### Program details

- **13-weeks full-time studies**
  - NSCC 7320 - Critical Care Theory 3
  - NSCC 7420 - Clinical 1
  - NSCC 7520 - Critical Care Theory 4
  - NSCC 7620 - Clinical 2

View course details [here](#).

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will receive a certificate from BCIT.

\*\*\*A bridge-in option is available to those who have previous high acuity or emergency education. Individual learner assessment by BCIT is required to confirm registration.