

# Surgical pathways for gender-affirming genital surgeries



	GSP BC	GRS Montreal
<b>LOCATION</b>	Vancouver, British Columbia	Montreal, Quebec
<b>TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE FOR BC RESIDENTS</b>	<b>Phalloplasty – RFF</b> (Radial Forearm Flap), ALT (Anterolateral Thigh)	<b>Vaginoplasty</b> - penile inversion
	<b>Metoidioplasty</b>	<b>Vulvoplasty</b>
	<b>Erectile Tissue Release</b>	
	<b>Vaginoplasty</b> - penile inversion, peritoneal pull through where clinically indicated	
	<b>Vulvoplasty</b>	
<b>PRE-OP CONSULT</b>	All patients have at least one in-person consult.	Vaginoplasty and other surgery patients have a phone consult upon special request. In-person consult day before surgery.
<b>PRE- AND POST-OP PHYSIO</b>	If recommended, available at the UBC Bladder Care Centre Vancouver – funded.	If recommended, private pay or extended health benefits only.
	In local community – private pay or extended health benefits.	
<b>ELIGIBILITY / RESTRICTIONS</b>	Restrictions re: medical complexity determined on an individualized basis.	BMI restrictions: Vaginoplasty/Vulvoplasty- 40
		Other restrictions re: medical complexity determined on an individualized basis.
<b>HAIR REMOVAL</b>	Individualized hair removal approach with vaginoplasty. Pre-surgical hair removal is recommended (electrolysis and/or laser). Manual intraoperative cautery is provided in all cases.	Manual intraoperative cautery during surgery is used for vaginoplasty so no pre-surgical hair removal is required. Manual intraoperative cautery results in reduction of

	Conducting research to compare outcomes re: hair removal.	intravaginal hair but does not prevent it.
	Electrolysis for phalloplasty with urethral lengthening required.	Pre-surgical hair removal on medically necessary areas funded by PHSA; needs a letter from surgeon stating requirement.
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<b>WAIT TIMES (APPROX.)</b>	Wait times are variable and may change quickly. Current estimate (March 2023): Complete referral to consult: 12-18 months	Wait times are variable and may change quickly. Current estimate (March 2023): Complete referral to surgery: 9-15 months.
	Wait time from consult to surgery depends on hair removal progress and readiness for surgery.	
<b>TRAVEL OPTIONS</b>	Hope Air Travel Assistance Program Private pay	Hope Air Private pay
<b>AFTERCARE STAY</b>	Patients stay in hospital until they are ready to be discharged home.	Patients stay in hospital 2-3 nights post-op. Transfer to sub-acute aftercare facility (PHSA funded) for 4-7 nights post-operatively depending on procedure. Discharged home.
<b>POST-OP CARE</b>	Provided by GSP BC.	Provided by primary care provider in consultation with GRS Montreal surgeon.
	May be supported by primary care or other local providers in consultation with GSP BC surgeons. Video-based, shared care possible.	Post-op care for patients having surgery at GRS Montreal while in Montreal. Once home, care is provided by local providers. If needed, patients may need to return to Montreal for revisions. Phone line for providers and patients is available for follow-up questions. GSP BC is not responsible for Montreal GRS post-op care. VCH Trans Speciality care offers limited post-op support on a case-by-case basis for patients outside the VCH region.
<b>SUPPLIES</b>	Dilators covered.	Dilators covered.
<b>COSTS TO PATIENTS</b>	Other supplies may be out of pocket such as wound care supplies etc.	Other supplies may be out of pocket such as wound care supplies, etc.
		Out of province costs associated with COVID exposure. See document on <a href="#">surgical considerations during COVID-19</a> .
<b>HISTORY OF SURGERY PROGRAM</b>	Started in September 2019. GSP BC is the first publicly funded lower surgery program in Western Canada. <a href="#">GSP BC website</a>	Started in 2000. GRS Montreal was the first surgical provider to offer lower surgeries in Canada. <a href="#">GRS Montreal website</a>

**SURGEONS**

**Dr. Krista Genoway** - plastic and reconstructive surgeon with a sub-specialty in microsurgery. Providing gender-affirming surgeries since 2016.

**Dr. Alex Kavanagh** - reconstructive urologist. Providing gender-affirming surgeries since 2018.

**Dr. Pierre Brassard** - plastic surgeon with a sub-specialty in microsurgery. Providing gender-affirming surgeries since 1990.

**Dr. Maud Bélanger** - plastic surgeon with a sub-specialty in microsurgery. Providing gender-affirming surgeries since 2010.

**Dr. Alexis Laungani** - plastic surgeon. Providing gender-affirming surgeries at GRS Montreal since 2020.

**Dr. Chen Lee** - plastic surgeon. Providing gender-affirming surgeries at GRS Montreal since 2020.

**CLINIC PROCESS**

Referral form with 1 surgical assessment sent to clinic.  
Patient added to consult waitlist.

After consult (and once ready for surgery) patient added to surgery booking waitlist.

Referral letter with 1 surgical assessment, clinic forms and list of medications from pharmacy.

Once all required documents have been received the complete referral is forwarded to pre-op clinic for assessment by clinical nurses in collaboration with a social worker, surgeons and anesthesiologists.

Request submitted to HIBC for MSP funding approval.

Once MSP funding approved, patient booked for surgery.