

**For Immediate Release**  
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**MORE CUTS TO HEALTH SERVICES  
IV THERAPY SERVICES REDUCED AT VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**VICTORIA** – Opposition Health Critic Adrian Dix says Health Minister George Abbott must take action to restore cuts to IV Therapy services at Victoria General Hospital.

“There are real challenges at Victoria General Hospital because there are not enough registered nurses trained in IV Therapy,” said Dix. “IV nurses possess the skill to work with patients that often have trouble with IVs, including seniors and infants. It is a vital part of hospital care that cannot be reduced.”

Dix said that the Vancouver Island Health Authority has reduced the hours at VGH when certified IV therapists are available during the night, and it is expected that further reductions are forthcoming.

“There is a simple solution to this – provide the necessary funding needed for in-house training to increase the number of registered nurses as certified IV therapists,” said Dix. “The question is whether the budget restriction placed on the health authority by the Campbell government is stopping such training from taking place.

“Currently there is no option for nurses in Victoria to get this training,” said Dix. “The Island community is growing, especially here in greater Victoria. It simply doesn’t make sense for the government and the health authority to deny this type of necessary training to nurses here.

“Skilled IV nurses improve patient care and comfort. It is part of making a hospital experience as comfortable as possible,” said Dix. “But the Health Minister is only thinking about short-term considerations. The health of B.C. patients should come first.”

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