

Hematology Research Unit

Vancouver Coastal Health

The Hematology Research Unit (HRU) at Vancouver General Hospital is the first dedicated inpatient Phase I clinical trials unit in British Columbia. Purpose-built within a tertiary care hospital, the unit enables the safe delivery of complex investigational therapies requiring specialized clinical expertise and continuous monitoring.

British Columbia's leading early clinical trials hub

The Hematology Research Unit (HRU) at Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute supports high-acuity investigational therapies that require intensive inpatient monitoring and multidisciplinary clinical oversight. The unit provides immediate access to hematology, infectious disease, critical care and advanced diagnostics.



The hospital-integrated model enables the safe delivery of **first-in-human therapies**, **advanced immunotherapies** and other **complex investigational treatments** that cannot be conducted in traditional outpatient research settings.

Scientific concept and
protocol development

Infrastructure and
staffing support

Patient enrollment
and trial delivery

HRU Clinical Trial Pathway

Regulatory and
ethics review

Site preparation and
protocol implementation

Infrastructure and clinical integration



Embedded within the Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplant Program of British Columbia, HRU supports intensive investigational therapies and operates within a clinical and research environment aligned with Health Canada regulatory requirements and FACT accreditation.



Integrated program teams

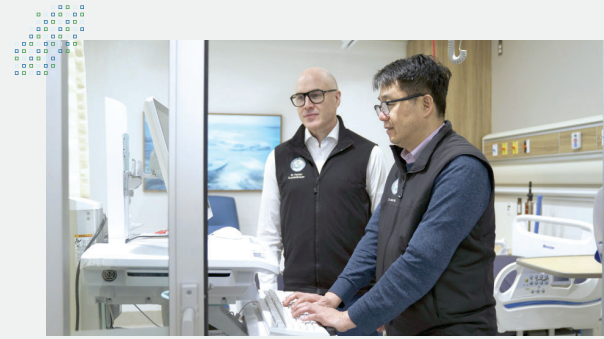
- + Specialized hematology physicians and nursing teams
- + Clinical research coordinators and regulatory staff
- + Pharmacy, cellular therapy and apheresis services
- + Laboratory and transfusion medicine
- + Diagnostic imaging and allied health services

Unit features

- + Three single-patient research rooms
- + Integrated ICU and hospital specialty support
- + Flexible inpatient–outpatient treatment capacity
- + Direct access to hospital clinical and research infrastructure

Clinical Trials Excellence at VCH

Vancouver Coastal Health provides a coordinated clinical trials ecosystem supported by modern infrastructure, experienced multidisciplinary teams and rigorous regulatory standards. Specialized research units enable efficient study activation, high-quality trial delivery and access to diverse patient populations across British Columbia.



Designed for high-complexity studies

HRU supports a wide spectrum of Phase I and Phase II clinical trials, including first-in-human and complex immunotherapy studies such as **CAR-T cell therapies**, early-stage **blood cancer**, **bispecific antibodies** and **targeted investigational drugs**. The unit is designed for therapies requiring intensive monitoring and specialized inpatient care and supports both industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated trials.

Key therapeutic areas of focus include:

Advanced cellular and immune therapies

CAR-T cell therapies
Bispecific antibodies



Hematologic malignancies

Acute and chronic leukemias
Plasma cell and lymphoid malignancies
Rare bone marrow disorders



Transplantation, thrombosis and blood disorders

Bone marrow transplant and GVHD
Bleeding and clotting disorders

Impact for patients and the health system

HRU expands access to innovative therapies for patients across British Columbia, enabling participation in early-phase clinical trials without travel outside the province. Trials support specialized care, accelerate evaluation of novel therapies and ensure representation of diverse patient populations.

Partner with HRU As a provincial referral destination, patients across British Columbia can be referred by their hematology or oncology teams for assessment of clinical trial eligibility at Vancouver General Hospital. Contact us to explore collaboration opportunities.

HRU Strengths

HRU supports inpatient and outpatient delivery of investigational therapies in hematologic malignancies, including:

- + Early-phase trials
- + Cellular therapies including CAR-T
- + Bispecific antibodies
- + Novel targeted therapies

Operational highlights

Active trials since unit opening in Fall 2025



- CAR-T cell therapies
- Leukemia drug development
- Bispecific antibody therapies
- Targeted investigational agents

These studies demonstrate HRU's capacity for early-phase, high-acuity trials in a hospital-integrated setting.