Responsibilities

The Department of Health’s role, as stated in the Health Authorities Act is to:

a. provide leadership for the health system by setting the strategic policy direction, priorities and standards for the health system; and

b. ensure accountability for funding and for the measuring and monitoring of health-system performance.

The department is organized into five Divisions: Investment and Decision Support; System Strategy and Performance; Corporate Service and Asset Management; Client Service and Contract Administration; and Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
Health. Divisions work collaboratively to contribute to the setting of strategic objectives, policy direction, funding allocations and performance standards to ensure that population health needs are met and continuous improvements in population health outcomes achieved.

**INVESTMENT AND DECISION SUPPORT**
Responsible for the analytics and health information management strategy designed to provide timely data and information to government, the health system and decision makers. Monitors health system performance as well as the health and wellness of the population to identify and report on past, emerging, short and long term trends and developments. Establishes and oversees the application of policies and standards for data capture, quality and access ensuring adherence to privacy legislation. Partners with ICTS on development and implementation of health technology and information strategy and systems. Branches within this Division include:

- Advanced Analytics
- Business Analytics and Information Management
- Health Privacy
- Digital Health

**SYSTEM STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE**
Development and monitoring of health system risk management and mitigation strategy across the continuum of health promotion/prevention, primary health, acute and continuing care, inclusive of mental health and addictions. Provides system governance to ensure initiatives are evidence-informed, performance-based and tied to accountability frameworks for improved system and population health outcomes. Oversees management and mitigation of risks to both the health and wellness of Nova Scotians and to the affordability and sustainability of the public health insurance system. Monitors system performance through regular reporting, evaluation, and auditing. Divisional branches are:

- Risk Management – Health Promotion
- Risk Mitigation – Primary and Acute Care
- Risk Mitigation – Continuing Care

**CORPORATE SERVICE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**
Responsible for corporate accountability and asset management. Leads the strategy development for the Health Human Resource (HHR) requirements of the provincial health system including the provincial Nursing Strategy and Physician Resource...
Plan. Oversees the establishment, coordination and quality of all corporate business planning and management processes (strategic planning, operational planning, business planning, accountability reporting, departmental and government decision making processes). Manages corporate services (Occupational Health and Safety, records management, facilities/lease management) and physical assets. Provides provincial leadership in the development and administration of the provincial emergency management program in the health sector. Divisional branches are:

- Corporate Process and Quality
- Health Human Resource Supply Management
- Health Services Emergency Management and Admin Services

**CLIENT SERVICE AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

Responsible for strategies to procure health programs and services. Leads negotiation of external contracts and establishes management frameworks and tracking and reporting systems to achieve contract compliance, performance results, and return on investment in areas spanning Emergency Health Services (ground ambulance, life flight, etc.), Telecare 811, Pharmacare (seniors and family, etc.), Dental Care, and other ancillary programs. Establishes and implements processes for timely and accurate adjudication and payment of claims for programs and services administered by the department. Branches include:

- Contract Management
- Pharmaceutical Services and Extended Health benefits
- Insured Services

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

Provides leadership and strategic direction to the department’s health protection function under the *Health Protection Act*. Brings expertise and influence across the department, system government and nationally to build relationships and influence priorities that will achieve improvements in population health. Provides leadership in program development related to the prevention and control of communicable diseases as well as direction and advice to Public Health practitioners, internal and external partners, stakeholders and organizations on issues pertaining to communicable disease prevention and control including response to new and re-emerging infectious diseases, and the management of communicable disease outbreaks. OCMOH branches:

- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
- Regional Medical Officers of Health
Legislation

Acts administered by the Department of Health and Wellness as of November 2016:

- Adult Protection Act
- AIDS Advisory Commission Act
- Anatomy Act
- Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists Act (not proclaimed)
- Chiropractic Act
- Co-ordinated Home Care Act
- Counselling Therapists Act
- Dental Act
- Dental Hygienists Act
- Dental Technicians Act
- Denturists Act
- Dietitians Act (not proclaimed)
- Dispensing Opticians Act
- Doctors Nova Scotia Act
- Emergency Department Accountability Act
- Emergency Health Services Act
- Fair Drug Pricing Act
- Health Act
- Health Authorities Act
- Health Protection Act (shared with Environment)
- Health Research Foundation Act
- Health Services and Insurance Act
- Healthcare Services Continuation (2001) Act
- Homemakers’ Services Act
- Homes for Special Care Act (shared with Community Services)
- Hospitals Act
- Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act (not proclaimed)
- Human Tissue Gift Act
- Insured Health Services Act (not proclaimed)
- Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act
- Licensed Practical Nurses Act
- Mandatory Testing and Disclosure Act
- Massage Therapy Act (not proclaimed)
- Medical Act
• Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals Act (not proclaimed)
• Medical Laboratory Technology Act
• Medical Professional Corporations Act
• Medical Radiation Technologists Act
• Medical Services Act
• Midwifery Act
• Naturopathic Doctors Act
• Nova Scotia Hospital Act
• Occupational Therapists Act
• Optometry Act
• Paramedics Act (in force April 1, 2017)
• Patient Safety Act
• Personal Directives Act (shared with Justice)
• Personal Health Information Act
• Pharmacy Act
• Physiotherapy Act
• Prescription Monitoring Act
• Professional Dieticians Act
• Protection of Persons in Care Act (shared with Community Services)
• Psychologists Act
• Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre Expansion Act
• Registered Nurses Act
• Regulated Health Professions Network Act
• Respiratory Therapists Act
• Safe Body Art Act (not proclaimed)
• Safer Needles in Healthcare Workplaces Act
• Self-Managed Support-care Act
• Smoke-free Places Act
• Snow Sport Helmet Act
• Social Assistance Act (shared with Community Services)
• Tanning Beds Act
• Tobacco Access Act

Administrative update: January 26, 2017