

PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE

Diagnostic Facilities

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Related topic(s): [Medical/Surgical Office Procedures](#); [Non-Hospital Medical Surgical Facilities](#)

This **professional guideline** reflects a recommended course of action established based on the values, principles and duties of the medical profession. Licensees may exercise reasonable discretion in their decision-making based on the guidance provided. At a later date, this professional guideline will transition to a practice standard following consultation with the profession and other health partners.

Preamble

Accreditation by the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) provides the public with confidence that facilities at which diagnostic testing is performed are doing so in conformance with provincial standards of quality, which are typically based on international best practice. In addition, those diagnostic tests are being provided by regulated health professionals with the education, credentials, qualifications, and experience required to ensure safe and quality services.

DAP is responsible for accrediting all diagnostic facilities in British Columbia, including those operated by a health authority as well as independent facilities. The Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (CPSBC) has been granted the legal authority under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA)* to make bylaws respecting diagnostic, surgical, treatment or other prescribed types of facilities in which one or more designated health professionals are practising, including bylaws establishing or adopting accreditation standards, and providing for the inspection of facilities to determine if facilities meet, and continue to meet, accreditation standards.

All health care “screening” services using diagnostic tests require DAP accreditation. Although considered screening, these tests must be performed adequately and interpreted by a qualified physician as they can lead to specific diagnoses and follow-up testing or procedures. The payment method (MSP or private pay) does not change the requirement for accreditation.

As per section 13-41 (1) of the CPSBC Bylaws “A facility must have a certificate of provisional or full accreditation to provide any procedures set out in schedule H”.

A licensee is permitted to provide procedures set out in Schedule H that do not require accreditation as indicated, providing that the licensee only performs the procedures while treating their own patients or in the course of treating a patient who has been referred to them by another physician.

Definitions

diagnostic service

The performance of a diagnostic test and/or procedure and provision of information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of human health condition.

facility

A clinical or laboratory setting which requires accreditation to provide:

- a) a medical, surgical, dental or anesthesia procedure and/or treatment, or
- b) a diagnostic service,

and includes other settings authorized by a certificate of accreditation for the use of mobile equipment to provide a diagnostic service.

procedure

A medical, surgical, dental, anesthesia or diagnostic procedure and/or treatment authorized to be performed at an accredited facility.

CPSBC's position

To better ensure that all diagnostic facilities undergo an accreditation process, a licensee may not utilize or practise in a diagnostic facility in British Columbia unless such facility is accredited by the DAP.

Licensees are required to check CPSBC's website for a list of all accreditation facilities including the services, tests and procedures for which they are accredited, prior to referring patients or performing a diagnostic service at a facility.

Resources

1. CPSBC website: List of accredited facilities
2. CPSBC Bylaws, *Health Professions and Occupations Act*, SBC 2022 Chapter 43