

PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE

Medical/Surgical Office Procedures

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Related topic(s): [Diagnostic Facilities](#); [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 Non-Hospital Medical Surgical Facility Accreditation Program (NHMSFAP) provides the public with confidence that those facilities providing complex medical/surgical procedures are doing so in conformance with provincial standards of quality, which are typically based on international best practice. In addition, those procedures are being provided by regulated health professionals with the education, credentials, qualifications, and experience required to ensure safe and quality services.

NHMSFAP is responsible for accrediting all independent medical/surgical facilities in British Columbia. 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.

Definitions

facility	A clinical or laboratory setting which requires accreditation to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) a medical, surgical, dental or anesthesia procedure and/or treatment, orb) a diagnostic service, and includes other settings authorized by a certificate of accreditation for the use of mobile equipment to provide a diagnostic service.
independent facility	A facility which is not operated by, or subject to regulatory oversight of, a health authority.
procedure	A medical, surgical, dental, anesthesia or diagnostic procedure and/or treatment authorized to be performed at an accredited facility.
simple procedure	A superficial or other procedure that a competent licensee would reasonably anticipate will be safely completed using resources generally available in a physician office.
superficial procedure	A procedure limited to the epidermis, dermis, and/or subcutaneous tissues that a competent licensee would reasonably anticipate will be safely completed using resources generally available in a physician office.

CPSBC's position

Only simple or superficial procedures **as defined above** may be performed in a physician office. Before performing a simple procedure or superficial procedure, a physician must

assess the appropriate setting for the procedure having regard to the resources necessary to safely address unexpected complications in accordance with generally accepted standards of care in British Columbia and the Canadian Medical Association *Code of Ethics and Professionalism*.

All other procedures must only be performed in a facility accredited by NHMSFAP, a health authority setting, or a facility accredited by the BC College of Oral Health Professionals.

Resources

1. CPSBC Bylaws, *Health Professions and Occupations Act*, SBC 2022 Chapter 43
2. CPSBC Bylaws Schedule G: Procedures that may only be performed in an accredited non-hospital medical and surgical facility.