

PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE

Non-Hospital Medical Surgical Facilities

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

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 professional 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

independent facility	A facility which is not operated by, or subject to regulatory oversight of, a health authority.
facility	<p>A clinical or laboratory setting which requires accreditation to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) a medical, surgical, dental or anesthesia procedure and/or treatment, orb) a diagnostic service, <p>and includes other settings authorized by a certificate of accreditation for the use of mobile equipment to provide a diagnostic service</p>
procedure	A medical, surgical, dental, anesthesia or diagnostic procedure and/or treatment authorized to be performed at an accredited facility.

CPSBC's position

A licensee may not utilize or practise in a facility unless that facility is accredited by NHMSFAP. Licensees are required to be familiar with the list of medical, surgical, dental and/or treatment procedures as set out in Schedule G of the CPSBC Bylaws made pursuant to the *HPOA*.

Licensees are required to check the CPSBC website for a list of all accredited facilities including the services, and procedures for which they are accredited, prior to referring patients or performing medical, surgical, dental or anesthesia procedure and/or treatment at the facility.

Resources

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