

Diagnostic Accreditation Program

**ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

Indigenous Cultural Safety,  
Cultural Humility and Anti-  
Racism

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## Introduction

The purpose of this standard is to set out clear expectations for the provision of culturally safe and anti-racist care for Indigenous patients in health-care facilities accredited by the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) and the Non-Hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program (NHMSFAP). It is based on the *College's Indigenous Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility and Anti-racism* practice standard.

In Canada, and for the purposes of this standard, the term "Indigenous" refers to all people who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

The College's definitions for cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism are as follows:

**Cultural safety:** A culturally safe environment is physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually safe. There is recognition of, and respect for, the cultural identities of others, without challenge or denial of an individual's identity, who they are, or what they need. Culturally unsafe environments diminish, demean, or disempower the cultural identity and well-being of an individual.

**Cultural humility:** A lifelong process of self-reflection and self-critique. It is foundational to achieving a culturally safe environment. While western models of medicine typically begin with an examination of the patient, cultural humility begins with an in-depth examination of the provider's assumptions, beliefs and privilege embedded in their own understanding and practice, as well as the goals of the patient-provider relationship. Undertaking cultural humility allows for Indigenous voices to be front and centre and promotes patient/provider relationships based on respect, open and effective dialogue, and mutual decision-making. This practice ensures Indigenous Peoples are partners in the choices that impact them, and ensures they are party and present in their course of care.

**Anti-racism:** The practice of actively identifying, challenging, preventing, eliminating, and changing the values, structures, policies, programs, practices, and behaviours that perpetuate racism. It is more than just being "not racist" but involves taking action to create conditions of greater inclusion, equality, and justice.

## Indigenous Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility and Anti-Racism

No.	Description	Change
<b>ICS1.0</b>	<b>THE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND AND BE RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF INDIGENOUS PATIENTS AND CLIENTS.</b>	New
<b>ICS1.1</b>	<b>The medical director is responsible and accountable for ensuring the delivery of culturally safe and anti-racist care for Indigenous patients.</b>	New
ICS1.1.1	Staff and physicians engage in annual self-reflective exercises to evaluate their views, values, and beliefs of Indigenous peoples. <i>Guidance: Staff and physicians should be given the opportunity to complete self-reflection activities on an annual basis. Any self-reflection activities should be recorded.</i>	New
ICS1.1.2	Staff and physicians undertake initial and ongoing education on Indigenous health care, cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism. <i>Guidance: Staff and physicians should be given the opportunity to engage in cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism education to address the negative impacts of Indigenous-specific racism on Indigenous patient healthcare experiences. Various learning resources on Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism are available on the College website. Educational activities should be recorded and retained in human resource files.</i>	New
ICS1.1.3	There are policies and procedures that address Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination. <i>Guidance: The policies and procedures outline cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism expectations. The policies and procedures address strategies to identify, address, prevent and eradicate racism.</i>	New
ICS1.1.4	There are policies and procedures for reporting and responding to Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination. <i>Guidance: The policies and procedures outline how to identify, report and respond to racism and discrimination directed at Indigenous peoples.</i>	New

No.	Description	Change
ICS1.1.5	<p>Staff and physicians ensure safe health care for Indigenous patients that includes holistic care, respect and empathy.</p> <p><i>Guidance: Holistic care considers the Indigenous person’s physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and cultural needs. Staff and physicians endeavor to incorporate Indigenous cultural rights, values and practices where able and involvement of family and community as needed and requested.</i></p>	New

## References

1. College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia. Practice standard: Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism [Internet]. Vancouver: College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia; 2022 Feb 25 [updated 2022 May 6; [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 4 p.
2. British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives. Practice standard for all BCCNM registrants: Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility, and anti-racism [Internet]. Vancouver: British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives; 2022 Jan [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 4 p.
3. Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism FAQs [Internet]. Vancouver (BC): College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia; 2022 Feb 25 [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 3 p.
4. International Society for Quality in Health Care External Evaluation Association. Guidelines and principles for the development of health and social care standards [Internet]. Version 1.1. Geneva (CH): International Society for Quality in Health Care External Evaluation Association; 2022 Mar [cited 2023 Mar 21]. 60 p.
5. Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism learning resources [Internet]. Vancouver (BC): College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia; 2022 Feb 25 [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 12 p.