



Diagnostic Accreditation Program

Policy

Diagnostic Accreditation Program Governance

PURPOSE

This document describes the legal status and governance of the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) of British Columbia.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (the College) has been granted legislated authority under Bylaws section 25.5(1)(d) of the *Health Professions Act* to provide for a diagnostic facilities accreditation program.

As per section 5-26(1) of the College Bylaws “Every diagnostic facility must be accredited by the committee before it can render a diagnostic service.”

GOVERNANCE

The Board of the College (the Board) is governed by the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, and associated regulations and the College Bylaws. The Board is comprised of elected physicians, and public representatives who are appointed by the Minister of Health. The Board must govern, control and administer the affairs of its college in accordance with the *HPA*, the regulations and the Bylaws. The Board is responsible for setting strategic direction, developing policies and providing oversight of the College’s performance.

The Board establishes committees made up of board members and medical professionals that administer the affairs of the College, ensuring a well-balanced and equitable approach to regulation. One of these committees is the Diagnostic Accreditation Program Committee (the Committee), which reports to the Board.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

The Committee is established consisting of at least six persons appointed by the Board, a majority of whom must be registrants, and must include at least one board member. The registrar or delegate and a Ministry of Health Services representative may attend meetings as non-voting members. The scope and responsibilities of the Committee is set out in section 5-25 of the Bylaws.

The Committee establishes performance standards to ensure the delivery of high quality and safe diagnostic services, evaluates a diagnostic service’s level of actual performance in achieving the performance standards, and determines if a diagnostic facility should be accredited to provide a diagnostic service. The Committee is responsible for decisions regarding accreditation including the granting, maintaining, extending, reducing, suspending, or withdrawing of accreditation.

The Committee may appoint advisory persons or groups to assist it in its work, such as the Expert Advisory Committees used to develop and provide recommendations on standards. The Committee may

appoint medical and technical specialists as peer or staff assessors to support diagnostic facility accreditation assessments.

See Appendix A: DAP Organizational Structure.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

The College has a legislated duty to serve and protect the public. The College's overriding interest is the protection and safety of patients.

The DAP's vision:

Quality health care together.

The College's mission statement:

Serving the public by regulating physicians and surgeons.

The College's values:

The DAP understands that its integrity as an accreditation body is based on ensuring that its delivery of services and accreditation decisions are consistent with the College values of being transparent, objective, impartial, and fair.

The College embeds these values in the agreements and processes that guide the DAP Committee, staff and assessors in the support of diagnostic service accreditation.

RESPONSIBILITY

Role	Responsibility
College of Physicians and Surgeons Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Bylaws that require Ministerial approval (government of British Columbia). Developing and maintaining Terms of Reference for DAP Committee. Selecting and delegating authority to DAP Committee Assigning members to the Committee. Adjudicating escalated accreditation award appeals.
Chief Operating Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approving contracts for consultants and peer assessors
DAP Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining if a diagnostic facility should be accredited to provide a diagnostic service (accreditation decisions and awards). Establishing standards to which diagnostic facilities will be held to ensure the delivery of high quality and safe diagnostic services. Monitoring for proficiency testing and quality assurance performance. Appointing advisory persons or groups to assist the DAPC. Evaluating a diagnostic service's level of actual performance in achieving performance standards through delegating authority for assessment to DAP assessors.

Role	Responsibility
Advisory Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advising and assisting with the development of standards. Recommending adoption of accreditation standards to DAPC.
Deputy Registrar, DAP, NHMSFAP, PPEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseeing all matters of accreditation in accordance with the <i>Health Professions Act</i> and College Bylaws. Overseeing budget performance. Overseeing the development and maintenance of effective DAP accreditation and performance standards, structure, procedures, and guidelines to ensure the delivery of high-quality diagnostic services.
Director, DAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing policies relating to the operation of the DAP². Supervise the finances of the DAP. Document the duties, responsibilities and authorities of accreditation personnel.
Managers, DAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervise the implementation of policies and procedures. Ensure assessors with the necessary expertise and credentials to meet the needs of the DAP are available for facility assessments.
Assessors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain current knowledge of the DAP standards and assessment practices. Provide assessment services in an ethical and impartial manner adhering to the Assessor Code of Conduct.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

DAP Committee Terms of Reference

REFERENCES

1. Terms of Reference: Diagnostic Accreditation Program Committee, College of Physicians and Surgeons Board Governance Policy Manual, revised November 2021.
2. International Organization for Standardization. Conformity assessment – general requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies. Geneva: International Organizations for Standardization; 2017. ISO/IEC 17011:2017(E).
3. Director, Diagnostic Accreditation Program Position Description, College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.
4. Deputy Registrar DAP, NHMSFP, PPEP Position Description, College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.
5. College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia Bylaws, Health Professions Act RSBC 1996 c.183 June 1, 2009 (revised January 8, 2021).

APPENDIX A: DAP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

