

POSITION STATEMENT

Accreditation Requirements for Facilities Performing Point-of-Care Testing

Purpose

Position statements from the College provide background information and express or clarify the College's intent on a particular matter. They are intended as guidance for stakeholders in areas where events are evolving or changing rapidly, the implementation of processes and procedures may be premature, or it is timely to communicate the College's broad intent before or as policies and procedures are developed.

This document addresses the Diagnostic Accreditation Program's (DAP) response to inquiries regarding accreditation requirements for facilities performing point-of-care testing including community based non-laboratory facilities like urgent primary care centres and long-term care centres.

Background

Facilities provide point-of-care testing (POCT) to patients in both primary-care and specialist-care settings without the need for the patient to go to an outpatient medical laboratory or have samples collected to be forwarded to a hospital medical laboratory. The results from the POCT guide the physicians during the course of treatment of the patient. Although POCT in Health Authority urgent primary care centres (UPCC) and long-term care centres may require accreditation from the DAP, many have not sought advice on the DAP's standards or have proceeded to offer POCT without DAP accreditation.

Position

In BC, a physician may perform select diagnostic procedures that are exempt from accreditation as approved by the DAP Committee and the Board, providing that the physician performs the procedures themselves when treating their own patients or when treating a patient who has been referred to them by another physician.

The DAP's requirements for accreditation of facilities performing point-of-care testing are as follows:

- **Physician's offices** and community-based facilities **operating as a private physician-run facility:**

- All patients seeking care are considered the physician's own patients. The physician is therefore permitted to perform diagnostic procedures as approved by the DAP Committee and the Board and accreditation is not required.
 - The facility must be accredited by the DAP prior to rendering a diagnostic service if it wishes to perform additional diagnostic procedures not approved by the committee.
- **Acute care facilities/wards operating as part of a larger health authority organization already accredited by the DAP**, including a public health authority or private organization:
 - All services are deemed high risk as health care providers will take immediate and significant action based on POCT results. All services require accreditation by the DAP.
- **Non-acute care facilities/wards operating as part of a larger health authority organization already accredited by the DAP**, including a public health authority or private organization:
 - All patients seeking care are considered the physician's own patients. The physician is therefore permitted to perform diagnostic procedures as approved by the DAP Committee and the Board and accreditation is not required.
 - The facility must be accredited by the DAP prior to rendering a diagnostic service if it wishes to perform additional diagnostic procedures not approved by the committee.

References

- Section 5-26(2) of the Bylaws
- DAP Position Statement - Point of Care Laboratory Diagnostic Tests Exempt from Accreditation

Contact

For further information, please contact dap@cpsbc.ca.