



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

# Position Statement

## Credentialing Requirements for Home Sleep Apnea Testing

### DETAILS

**Department/program:** Diagnostic Accreditation Program

**Date:** February 1, 2021

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### 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 is to clarify the qualifications and training required to perform and interpret home sleep apnea tests and to act as a medical director for a home sleep apnea testing (HSAT) facility.

### BACKGROUND

The BC Medical Quality Initiative (BCQMI) Privileging Dictionaries, implemented in 2011 and revised in 2018, provide the credentialing requirements for privileging within health authority facilities. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC's Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) has accepted these dictionaries for identifying physicians who meet the requirements for interpreting polysomnography.

Home sleep apnea testing (HSAT) is a subset of polysomnography that is not separately defined in the dictionaries. However, the dictionaries outline the credentials required for performing and interpreting polysomnography, identifying them as non-core privileges.

The DAP Committee accredits all facilities performing HSAT to ensure that they meet the standards required for performing a diagnostic service. HSAT facilities are required to apply for accreditation with the DAP and will receive a formal on-site accreditation assessment every four years.

To interpret HSAT testing, the physician must be a registrant of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, be appropriately credentialed, and work in an accredited facility.

## POSITION

The DAP has accepted the BCMQI Privileging Dictionaries for identifying physicians who meet the requirements for interpreting HSAT.

The following summary may be used to assist physicians and others in identifying eligibility for interpreting HSAT and acting as a medical director for a HSAT testing facility.

### Medical director

To be eligible to be a medical director for a HSAT facility(s), the physician must be registered with the College, able to fulfill the medical director requirements for each facility assigned to them, and meet **one of** the following:

- Be a registrant in the specialty class of respirology, neurology, psychiatry, general internal medicine, otolaryngology or general/family practice **and** meet the BCMQI dictionary requirements for an interpreting physician set out below

**or**

- Be a registrant in the specialty class of respirology, neurology, psychiatry, general internal medicine, otolaryngology or general/family practice **and** have access to a named qualified interpreting sleep medicine physician, registered with the College, for consultation on any clinical issues arising in their role as medical director

### Interpreting physician

To be initially eligible to interpret HSAT, the physician must be registered with the College and meet **all of** the following:

- Be a registrant in the specialty class of respirology, neurology, psychiatry, general internal medicine, otolaryngology or general/family practice; have completed appropriate training reflective of the scope of the practice requested to the satisfaction of the medical director
- Have completed one or more of the following:
  - Meet BCMQI polysomnography requirements for the specialty
  - Competency Training Requirements for the Area of Focused Competence in Sleep Disorder Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
  - Certification in sleep medicine from the American Board of Sleep Medicine prior to 2007
  - Subspecialty certification in sleep medicine by the appropriate American Board of Medical Specialties
- Maintained an adequate volume of current clinical experience reflective of the scope of practice as approved by the medical director (or the College) and demonstrate continuing practice
- Participate in ongoing professional practice evaluation in sleep medicine including the DAP QC program

## REFERENCES

BC Medical Quality Initiative. View dictionaries [Internet]. Vancouver: BC Medical Quality Initiative; [n.d.] [cited 2021 Jan 22]. Available from: <http://bcmqi.ca/credentialing-privileging/dictionaries/view-dictionaries>

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Competency training requirements for the area of focused competence in sleep disorder medicine [Internet]. Ottawa: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; 2018 [cited 2021 Jan 22]. Available from: <https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/documents/ibd/sleep-disorder-medicine-afc-ctr-f>

American Board of Medical Specialties. Specialty and subspecialty certificates [Internet]. Chicago: American Board of Medical Specialties; [n.d.] [cited 2021 Jan 22]. Available from: <https://www.abms.org/member-boards/specialty-subspecialty-certificates/>

## CONTACT

For further information, please contact the manager, diagnostic services at [dap@cpsbc.ca](mailto:dap@cpsbc.ca).