

POSITION STATEMENT

Eligibility Requirements for DAP Accreditation

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) requirements that facilities must meet to be eligible for accreditation by the DAP.

Background

The DAP is the regulatory accreditation body for diagnostic services in British Columbia (BC) including laboratory medicine, diagnostic imaging, polysomnography, neurodiagnostics, and pulmonary function. The DAP does not provide competing services with these diagnostic facilities nor does it offer consultancy services. The DAP ensures availability of accreditation for all facilities conducting diagnostic services so that patients have access to quality diagnostic care.

Facilities require provisional accreditation prior to opening and operating in BC. In the BC regulatory environment, no diagnostic facility may operate without an accreditation award. Provisional accreditation uses a focused standard set addressing patient and staff safety and facility equipment validation prior to opening for service.

Position

DAP accreditation is restricted to facilities that comply with the eligibility requirements that have been established based on facility and diagnostic service specifications:

Facility eligibility requirements

All new diagnostic facilities intending to bill the Medical Services Plan (MSP) for their services will be requested to provide proof of exemption to the moratorium as awarded by the BC Agency for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and/or Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities (ACDF), prior to any initial assessment activity. Facilities seeking accreditation without proof of exemption to the moratorium must identify to the DAP if their intent is to

apply for MSP funding or their intent is to provide uninsured services (those not insured by the MSP). Facilities should be aware that billing privately for insured services is contrary to the *Medicare Protection Act* and Bill 92.

Existing facilities seeking to expand their scope of services will not be required to obtain exemption from the BC Lab Agency and/or ACDF; however they must meet the diagnostic testing eligibility for accreditation.

Diagnostic service eligibility requirements

Direct-to-consumer services

The DAP will not provide accreditation for any diagnostic service that is deemed to be a direct to consumer (DTC) service. The DAP defines DTC as any diagnostic service conducted without direct request of an authorized regulated healthcare provider.

Accredited diagnostic services require direct requests from an authorized regulated healthcare provider as it is the responsibility of the regulated healthcare provider to counsel patients on diagnostic services, interpreting the results of the diagnostic services and provide follow up counselling for patients.

Authorized health-care provider-requested services

The scope of accreditation that the DAP will provide to facilities shall be restricted to those tests using Health Canada approved testing methodologies and the responsibility of the test menu shall lie with the Laboratory Medical Director.

The Medical Director shall be responsible for the determination of which tests are offered and shall be required to provide the requesting regulated health care professional with sufficient information regarding the clinical utility of the test and ensure that the laboratory interpretation of the test reflects current knowledge of its utility.

Diagnostic services using lab developed tests or components of tests which are lab developed, and not Health Canada approved, shall be out of scope of accreditation, except for those that have been reviewed by the provincial Test Review Committee and approved for funding by the Medical Services Commission (MSC).

Diagnostic services using lab-developed tests offered in established research protocols are out of scope of accreditation.

All diagnostic services that do not meet the above criteria shall be out of scope of accreditation and must be clearly identified as such on patient reports.

Contact

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