



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

Position Statement

Accreditation of Overnight Oximetry in Community Spirometry

DETAILS

Department/program: Diagnostic Accreditation Program

Date: March 1, 2019

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, the implementation of processes and procedures may be premature, the implementation of a guideline or standard may not be necessary, another credible body (e.g. professional association) has already established guidelines or standards, or it is timely to communicate the College's broad intent before or as policies and procedures are developed.

This document addresses the issue of overnight oximetry offered by facilities accredited for community spirometry.

BACKGROUND

Although insufficient for the differential diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, nocturnal (overnight) pulse oximetry may be used as a screening tool for patients with high clinical pre-test suspicion¹. Accredited community spirometry facilities have approached the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) to inquire whether they may offer overnight oximetry and, if so, whether additional accreditation from the DAP is required.

POSITION

The DAP's position on the matter is two-fold:

- 1) **Overnight oximetry is not permitted by facilities accredited for community spirometry.** The DAP's accreditation award for community spirometry may permit accredited facilities to perform "simple" spirometry, including simple screening spirometry without bronchodilators, spirometry before and after bronchodilators, peak expiratory flow rate, spirometry-forced expiratory volume with and without bronchodilators, and flow volume loops. Overnight oximetry is not included in the accreditation award.
- 2) In the event that a facility has been approved by the Medical Service Commission's Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities (ACDF) to bill the Medical Services Plan for overnight

oximetry, it **must apply for and receive accreditation from the DAP for pulmonary function or polysomnography. This accreditation requires an on-site assessment by the DAP.**

REFERENCES

1. Dumitrache-Rujinski, S., Calcaianu, G., Zaharia, D., Toma, C. L., & Bogdan, M. (2013). The role of overnight pulse-oximetry in recognition of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome in morbidly obese and non obese patients. *Maedica*, 8(3), 237-42.

CONTACT

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