

## INTERIM GUIDANCE

# Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS)

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**Related topic(s):** [Charging for Uninsured Services](#); [Complementary and Alternative Therapies](#); [Conflict of Interest](#); [Consent to Treatment](#)

**Interim guidance** from the College provides information to express or clarify the College's view on a particular matter. It is intended as guidance for registrants in areas where research and current practice are evolving or changing rapidly, the implementation of processes and procedures may be premature, or it is timely to communicate the College's stance on an issue before a practice standard or professional guideline is developed.

## Preamble

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College) has received inquiries from registrants regarding the provision of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) for the treatment of psychiatric and neurological disorders in adults.

Registrants are encouraged to contact the CMPA for advice before proceeding with therapies that are not considered conventional treatment options and/or additions to their scope of practice.

## College's position

### Scope of practice and education requirements

The provision of rTMS is limited to psychiatrists and family physicians who have appropriate training, knowledge and scope of practice. Providing rTMS is considered a change in scope of practice. In accordance with Bylaw 2-9, registrants are required to contact the College's Registration Department prior to being granted a change of scope in practice and must show evidence of additional training from an accredited training program. Registrants must review and comply with the [BC MQI Psychiatry Clinical Privileges](#) for all rTMS training requirements.

Accreditation by the College is not necessary for rTMS.

### Delivery

Before beginning with rTMS, registrants must ensure that informed consent is obtained from the patient in accordance with the [Consent to Treatment](#) practice standard. The College expects that registrants fully disclose to the patients the proven benefits and associated risks of rTMS, and that the consent discussion is documented in the patient's medical record.

Registrants are to assume all responsibility when assigning any activities related to rTMS treatment delivery to a non-registrant. This includes ensuring technicians are adequately trained and demonstrate competency in the required skills. At the time of the procedure, the registrant must be present within the facility and immediately available for consultation.

Registrants must also ensure they are acting in accordance with the College's [Advertising and Communication with the Public](#) practice standard. Information provided on clinic websites must be represented accurately and come from reputable, peer-reviewed publications or respected external organizations. It is the expectation of the College that all registrants follow federal regulations regarding medical devices and drug therapies.

Registrants must only recommend rTMS when it is justified by the patient's condition and is in the patient's best interest. As rTMS is currently an uninsured service, the College expects registrants to communicate and set fees clearly and fairly, as set out in the College's [Charging for Uninsured Services](#) practice standard.