

Non-hospital Medical and Surgical
Facilities Accreditation Program

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Indigenous Cultural Safety,
Cultural Humility and Anti-
racism

Copyright © 2026 by the Non-hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be used, reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, or stored in any retrieval system or any nature, without the prior written permission of the copyright holder, application for which shall be made to:

Non-hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program
College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia
300-669 Howe Street
Vancouver BC V6C 0B4

The Non-hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC has used their best efforts in preparing this publication. As websites are constantly changing, some of the website addresses in this publication may have moved or no longer exist.

Introduction

The purpose of this standard is to set out clear expectations for the provision of culturally safe and anti-racist care for Indigenous patients in health-care facilities accredited by the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) and the Non-hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program (NHMSFAP). It is based on the CPSBC *Indigenous Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility and Anti-racism* practice standard.

In Canada, and for the purposes of this standard, the term “Indigenous” refers to all people who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
ICS1.0	THE FACILITY SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND AND BE RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF INDIGENOUS PATIENTS.				
ICS1.1	The medical director is responsible and accountable for ensuring the delivery of culturally safe and anti-racist care for Indigenous patients.			New	
ICS1.1.1	<p>B Staff and physicians engage in annual self-reflective exercises to evaluate their views, values, and beliefs of Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Guidance: Staff and physicians should be given the opportunity to complete self- reflection activities on an annual basis. Any self-reflection activities should be documented.</p>	1,2,3,4	B	New	F
ICS1.1.2	<p>B Staff and physicians undertake initial and ongoing education on Indigenous health care, cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism.</p> <p>Guidance: Staff and physicians undertake ongoing cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism education to learn about the negative impact of Indigenous-specific racism and Indigenous patient health-care system experiences Various learning resources on indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism are available on the CPSBC website. Educational activities are documented and maintained in the individual’s human resource file.</p>	1,2,3,4	B	New	P, F
ICS1.1.3	<p>B There are policies and procedures that address Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination.</p> <p>Guidance: The policies and procedures outline cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism expectations and how to take action to identify, address (report), prevent and eliminate racism.</p>	1,2,3	B	New	P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
ICS1.1.4	<p>B There are policies and procedures for reporting and responding to Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination.</p> <p>Guidance: The policies and procedures outline how to identify, report and respond to racism and discrimination directed at Indigenous peoples.</p>	1,2,3	B	New	P, F
ICS1.1.5	<p>B Staff and physicians ensure safe health care for Indigenous patients that includes holistic care, respect and empathy.</p> <p>Guidance: Holistic care considers the indigenous person’s physical, mental/emotional, spiritual and cultural needs and acknowledges and incorporates indigenous cultural rights, values and practices into the plan of care where able.</p>	1,2,3,4	B	New	P, F

Glossary

Term	Definition
cultural safety	Refers to an environment that is physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually safe. There is recognition of, and respect for, the cultural identities of others, without challenge or denial of an individual's identity, who they are, or what they need. Culturally unsafe environments diminish, demean, or disempower the cultural identity and well-being of an individual.
cultural humility	Refers to a lifelong process of self-reflection and self-critique. It is foundational to achieving a culturally safe environment. While western models of medicine typically begin with an examination of the patient, cultural humility begins with an in-depth examination of the provider's assumptions, beliefs and privilege embedded in their own understanding and practice, as well as the goals of the patient-provider relationship. Undertaking cultural humility allows for Indigenous voices to be front and centre and promotes patient/provider relationships based on respect, open and effective dialogue, and mutual decision-making. This practice ensures Indigenous Peoples are partners in the choices that impact them, and ensures they are party and present in their course of care.
anti-racism	Refers to the practice of actively identifying, challenging, preventing, eliminating, and changing the values, structures, policies, programs, practices, and behaviours that perpetuate racism. It is more than just being "not racist" but involves taking action to create conditions of greater inclusion, equality, and justice.

Bibliography

1. British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives. Practice standard for all BCCNM registrants: indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility, and anti-racism [Internet]. Vancouver: British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives; 2022 Jan [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 4 p. Available from: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/Pages/CulturalSafetyHumility.aspx>
2. College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia. Practice standard: indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism [Internet]. Vancouver: College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia; 2022 Feb 25 [updated 2022 May 6; [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 4 p. Available from: <https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Indigenous-Cultural-Safety-Cultural-Humility-and-Anti-racism.pdf>
3. Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism FAQs [Internet]. Vancouver (BC): College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia; 2022 Feb 25 [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 3 p. Available from: <https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Indigenous-Cultural-Safety-Cultural-Humility-and-Anti-racism-FAQ.pdf>
4. International Society for Quality in Health Care External Evaluation Association. Guidelines and principles for the development of health and social care standards [Internet]. 5th Edition Version 1.1. Geneva (CH): International Society for Quality in Health Care External Evaluation Association; 2022 Mar [cited 2023 Mar 21]. 60 p. Available from: <https://ieea.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Guidelines-and-Principles-for-the-Development-of-Health-and-Social-Care-Standards-5th-Edition-v1.1.pdf>
5. Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility and anti-racism learning resources [Internet]. Vancouver (BC): College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia; 2022 Feb 25 [cited 2023 Feb 23]. 12 p. Available from: <https://www.cpsbc.ca/about/corporate/cultural-safety-and-humility/learning-resources>

Revision history

Date	Revisions
June 15, 2023	New standard approved
April 1, 2026	Indigenous Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility and Anti-racism Version 2.0 was republished in the updated standards template. No content revisions.