

POLICY

Requirement for Continuity of Care

Purpose

The Non-Hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program (NHMSFAP) Committee is responsible for establishing accreditation standards for non-hospital facilities and ensuring that facilities meet required standards for the quality and safety of service delivery in an accredited non-hospital facility.

This policy addresses the requirements for ensuring continuity of care for medical staff at non-hospital facilities.

Policy

1. All medical staff practising in a non-hospital facility must ensure continuity of care for their patients, including those patients who require admission to a hospital following a procedure at the facility.
2. Registrants of a facility who hold active or admitting privileges at a hospital local to the facility must:
 - a. be available by telephone and be able to attend the non-hospital facility to assess and/or treat the patient as appropriate to the patient's condition
 - b. admit to hospital and manage the patient as appropriate to the patient's condition
3. Registrants of a facility who do not hold active or admitting privileges at a hospital local to the facility must:
 - a. be available by telephone and be able to attend the non-hospital facility to assess and/or treat the patient as appropriate to the patient's condition
 - b. for any patient requiring admission to hospital, first have a registrant designate of the same specialty who holds active privileges at a hospital local to the facility who agrees to take responsibility for the management of the patient
 - c. be available by telephone to provide consultation and patient information to the hospital medical staff and designate
4. Other medical staff who do not hold active or admitting privileges at a hospital local to the facility must:

- a. be available by telephone and be able to attend the non-hospital facility to assess and/or treat the patient as appropriate to the patient's condition
- b. make an appropriate referral if a patient requires care outside of the non-hospital facility
- c. be available by telephone to provide consultation and patient information to the hospital medical staff

Exemptions to the requirement for a registrant designate include:

- anesthesiologists
- physicians performing procedural pain management procedures only
- physicians performing venous insufficiency procedures only
- ophthalmologists performing refractive eye surgery only
- dental surgeons
- podiatric surgeons
- oral maxillofacial surgeons

Definitions

continuity of care

Coordination of patient care, provision of follow-up patient care and the sharing of patient information to ensure proper care

hospital local to the facility

A hospital where it is a reasonable expectation that transfer can be arranged and accepted relative to the patient's condition, would not result in unreasonable and foreseeable risk of harm to the patient, and would be acceptable to the patient.

Responsibility

Role	Responsibility
Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance with the continuity of care policy • Ensure medical staff practicing in the facility meet the expectation for continuity of patient care as outlined in the policy • Provide the College with copies of all reportable patient safety incident forms
NHMSFAP Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish standards, rules, policies and guidelines respecting continuity of care • Review patient safety incidents to ensure the standards, rules, policies and guidelines respecting continuity of care were followed

NHMSFAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain records of all reportable patient safety incidents and complaints
College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that registrants comply with the bylaws, standards, rules, policies and guidelines respecting continuity of care