



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

Professional Standards and Guidelines

Laser Safety for Physician Practice

Preamble

This document is a standard of the Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

College's Position

Physicians who use a laser device for patient care and/or treatment must have completed relevant medical education and training in advance.

Physicians must either apply the laser device themselves, or following assessment of the patient, they may order a registered nurse to perform the laser procedure, or they may employ an unlicensed person to perform the laser procedure (e.g. a medical office assistant or technician).

Physicians must ensure that the registered nurses in their offices who perform laser procedures do so in accordance with their regulated scope of practice and possess the competencies required to carry out this activity. Physicians who employ unlicensed persons to perform laser procedures must ensure that the unlicensed person has documented relevant training and possesses the requisite knowledge, skill and competence to safely perform the laser procedure. Physicians must define the degree of medical supervision required, and must perform annual competency assessments of each individual performing laser treatments and must maintain a record of those assessments.

Physicians must use lasers in compliance with existing standards and occupational health and safety regulations, and must keep current with the standards as they are updated from time to time. Physicians must refer to [CSA Z386-2014 Safe use of lasers in health care](#), and [ANSI Z136.3-2011 Safe use of lasers in health care](#), since both the CSA Z386-2014 and the ANSI Z136.3-2011 are referenced in the [WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety \(OHS\) Regulation – Part 7 Division 3 Radiation Exposure](#) and are current at the time of this standard.

In addition to the above-mentioned standards, physicians may find the [Laser Safety for Physician Practice Summary](#) helpful as a resource.

Approved by Board: August 17, 2017 (Executive Committee)
Effective date: February 27, 2017
Revised: September 1, 2017