



STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

Commented [CD1]: Suggested name to address broadening of standard.

Under Review: Yes
Issued By: Council: January 1, 2010

022: For Consultation

The **Standards of Practice** of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta ("CPSA") are the **minimum** standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct expected of all regulated members registered in Alberta. Standards of Practice are enforceable under the *Health Professions Act* and will be referenced in the management of complaints and in discipline hearings. CPSA also provides **Advice to the Profession** to support the implementation of the Standards of Practice.

PREAMBLE

Regulated members are expected to ensure and promote effective infection prevention and control policies, systems and practices. This standard sets out the specific requirements regulated members must adhere to in order to prevent the potential spread of infection between themselves, patients and staff in clinical settings.

Commented [CD2]: Preamble added to provide background.

STANDARD

1. A regulated member **must** practice in accordance with all [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) General Standards](#).
2. A regulated member who uses reprocessed medical devices in a non-hospital setting or unaccredited facility (e.g., community clinic) **must** ensure procedures for the cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing of those devices comply with the [Medical Device Reprocessing Standards](#).
3. A regulated member who uses single-use medical devices in a non-hospital setting or unaccredited facility (e.g., community clinic) **must**:
 - a. only use the device for a single patient for a single procedure; and
 - b. discard the single-use device after use.
4. A regulated member **must** ensure ongoing quality assurance through monitoring practices and changing practice accordingly (e.g., to address outbreaks, public health alerts, etc.).

Commented [CD3]: Clause added to provide clarity and ensure knowledge of all IPAC General Standards.

Commented [CD4]: Reworded for clarity to ensure community clinics are addressed.

Commented [CD5]: Single-use devices given its own clause for clarity and to acknowledge new single-use IPAC standard.

Commented [CD6]: From CPSBC's [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) in Registrant's Offices](#) Professional Guideline: broadens focus from device reprocessing to all aspects of IPAC.

¹ Refer to Part A: Single-Use Medical Devices in CPSA's [Medical Device Reprocessing Standards](#) (September 2021).

Terms used in the Standards of Practice:

- "Regulated member" means any person who is registered or who is required to be registered as a member of this College. The College regulates physicians, surgeons and osteopaths.
- "Must" refers to a mandatory requirement.
- "May" means that the physician may exercise reasonable discretion.
- "Patient" includes, where applicable, the patient's legal guardian or substitute decision maker.

5. In accordance with the [Health Professions Act](#)² a regulated member **must** fully cooperate with any IPAC-related practice visit, including:
- allowing assessors to enter and assess the premises;
 - allowing assessors access to examine all activities, equipment, policies and/or procedures, records, correspondence and other documents or electronic data related to IPAC, including the ability to make copies; and
 - providing all information, including answering questions, requested by the assessor.

Commented [CD7]: From [CPSS's Bylaws](#): ensures clarity around participation expectations during assessments. Language duplicates that of the HPA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Medical Services Requiring Accreditation Outside of Hospitals*
- Practising Outside of Established Conventional Medicine*

COMPANION RESOURCES

- Accreditation: Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities
- Services Requiring Approval
- IPAC Standards
- Medical Device Reprocessing

² [Health Professions Act](#), Part 3.1: Inspectors (January 1, 2022).

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