

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

Under Review: No

Issued By Council: Jan. 1, 2010 (*Reprocessing Medical Equipment*)

Reissued By Council: Nov. 1, 2022 (*Infection Prevention and Control*)

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](#) (IPAC) policies, systems and practices.

Infection prevention and control is a multi-faceted approach that includes, but is not limited to, hand hygiene, point-of-care risk assessments, environmental cleaning and disinfection, and reprocessing of reusable medical devices.

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.

Additional information, general advice and/or best practices can be found in the [companion resources](#) listed below.

STANDARD

1. A regulated member practising in a community medical clinic¹ **must** practise in accordance with the [Infection Prevention & Control Requirements for Medical Clinics](#).
2. In situations where a location offers both community medical care and accredited services, a regulated member **must** ensure all requirements related to infection prevention and control are followed accordingly.
3. A regulated member who practises in a community medical clinic¹ and uses reprocessed, reusable medical devices **must** ensure procedures for the cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing of those devices comply with the [Reusable and Single-](#)

¹ “Community medical clinics” include any location where a regulated member provides professional services, which is not a hospital or an accredited medical facility as defined under section 8 of Schedule 21 of the HPA.

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.

[Use Medical Device Requirements for Medical Clinics.](#)

4. A regulated member who practises in a community medical clinic¹ and uses single-use medical devices **must** follow Part A of the [Reusable and Single-Use Medical Device Requirements for Medical Clinics.](#)
5. A regulated member **must** ensure ongoing quality assurance through monitoring practices and changing practice accordingly.
6. A regulated member **must** fully cooperate with any IPAC-related practice visit or inspection, in accordance with the [Health Professions Act](#)², including:
 - a. allowing assessors to enter and assess the premises;
 - b. allowing assessors access to examine all activities, equipment, policies and/or procedures, records, correspondence and other documents or electronic data related to IPAC, and to make copies; and
 - c. providing all information requested by the assessor, including answering the assessor's questions.

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RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- [Practising Outside of Established Conventional Medicine](#)

COMPANION RESOURCES

- Accreditation: [Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities](#)
- [Infection Prevention & Control Requirements for Medical Clinics](#)
- [Self-assessment of your medical clinic's IPAC measures](#)
- [Requirements for Medical Devices](#)
- [Guidance for Medical Clinics: Reusable and Single-Use Medical Device Requirements](#)

² [Health Professions Act](#), Part 3.0: Continuing Competence and Practice Visits, and Part 3.1: Inspectors.

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