

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

Commented [CD1]: Name changed to address broadening of standard.

Under Review: ~~Yes~~No

Issued By: Council: ~~January~~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~~ **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 clinic must practice practice in accordance with the Infection Prevention & Control Requirements for Medical Clinics.~~

~~1.2. In situations where a location offers both community medical care and accredited services, a regulated member must ensure all Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) General Standards requirements related to infection prevention and control are followed accordingly.~~

~~2.3. A regulated member who practises in a community medical clinic¹ and uses reprocessed, reusable medical devices in a non-hospital setting or unaccredited~~

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.

Commented [CD2]: Examples of IPAC procedures included for clarity.

Commented [CD3]: Preamble added to provide background.

Commented [CD4]: Definition of "community medical clinic" updated per legal review.

Commented [CD5]: IPAC "General Standards" renamed to differentiate from this standard of practice.

Commented [CD6]: Clause added to provide clarity and ensure knowledge of all IPAC General Standards.

facility (e.g., community clinic) **must** ensure procedures for the cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing of those devices comply with the Medical Device Reprocessing Standards, Reusable and Single-Use Medical Device Requirements for Medical Clinics.

3. A regulated member who practises in a community medical clinic¹ and uses single-use medical devices in a non-hospital setting or unaccredited facility (e.g., community clinic) **must**:

a.4. only use follow Part A of the device for a single patients for a single procedure; and Reusable and Single-Use Medical Device Requirements for Medical Clinics.
b. discard the single-use device after use.

4.5. A regulated member **must** ensure ongoing quality assurance through monitoring practices and changing practice accordingly.

5.6. In accordance with the Health Professions Act³ a regulated member **must** fully cooperate with any IPAC-related practice visit or inspection, in accordance with the Health Professions Act⁴, 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, including the ability and to make copies; and
- c. providing all information requested by the assessor, including answering the assessor's questions, requested by the assessor.

Commented [CD7]: Reworded for clarity to ensure community clinics are addressed.

Commented [CD8]: "Medical Device Reprocessing Standards" renamed for clarity and to align with the newly renamed "IPAC Requirements for Medical Clinics."

Commented [CD9]: Single-use devices given its own clause for clarity and to acknowledge new single-use IPAC standard.

Commented [CD10]: From CPSBC's *Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) in Registrant's Offices* Professional Guideline: broadens focus from device reprocessing to all aspects of IPAC.

Commented [CD11]: Reworded to ensure clarity with regard practice visits and inspections.

Commented [CD12]: From *CPSS's Bylaws*: ensures clarity around participation expectations during assessments. Language duplicates that of the HPA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CPSA acknowledges the assistance of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of British Columbia and the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Saskatchewan in preparing this document.

² Refer to Part A: Single-Use Medical Devices in CPSA's *Medical Device Reprocessing Standards* (September 2021).

³ *Health Professions Act, Part 3.1: Inspectors* (January 1, 2022).

⁴ *Health Professions Act, Part 3.0: Continuing Competence and Practice Visits, and Part 3.1: Inspectors.*

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RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

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

Commented [CD13]: Standard rescinded.

COMPANION RESOURCES

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

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- [Accreditation: Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities](#)
- [Infection Prevention & Control Requirements for Medical Clinics](#)
- [Guidance for Medical Clinics: Reusable and Single-Use Medical Device Requirements](#)
- [Reusable and Single-Use Medical Device Requirements for Medical Clinics](#)

022: For Consultation

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