

Practice Standard: Providing Virtual Care Services to Patients

Applies to Traditional Chinese Medicine Professionals & Acupuncturists

The College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC was created on June 28, 2024 through the amalgamation of four health regulatory colleges:

- College of Chiropractors of BC
- College of Massage Therapists of BC
- College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC
- College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of BC

All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the four colleges remain in place upon amalgamation.

This document was created by the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of BC and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.



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Practice Standard on Providing Virtual Care Services to Patients

(Effective: June 7, 2024)

Practice Standards of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners & Acupuncturists of British Columbia (the "College") set out minimum requirements for the professional conduct of TCM professionals practising in British Columbia. Together with the *Jurisprudence Handbook* and relevant legislation and case law, they will be used by the College and its Committees when considering a practitioner's practice or conduct.

For the purposes of this Practice Standard, the term 'must' denotes a mandatory College requirement while the term 'advised' denotes that the practitioner may use reasonable professional judgment and discretion when applying this expectation to practice.

Definition

Virtual Care: The use of communications technology in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and/or acupuncture practice remotely without in-person contact between the registrant and the patient. Virtual care utilizes the telephone and other electronic communication media, such as video conferencing for the registrant to provide services to the patient.

Jurisdiction

Registrants are reminded that the requirements for virtual care vary by jurisdiction. Registrants must comply with registration requirements in British Columbia and in the jurisdiction where the patient is located. Some jurisdictions may require registered practitioners to also hold registration or a licence to treat a patient who is physically located in that jurisdiction. Registrants should also be aware that the College may address complaints relating to a registrant's provision of care to a patient in other jurisdictions.

To perform any of the restricted activities authorized to the TCM profession or use the protected titles in British Columbia, a practitioner must be registered with CTCMA. While acupuncture treatment cannot be provided via virtual care, communicating a TCM diagnosis can occur. Hence, a practitioner must be registered with CTCMA to provide a TCM diagnosis to a patient in BC.

Registrants are reminded that providing virtual care in a different jurisdiction may affect their insurance and liability protection. Registrants must ensure they have appropriate liability protection for cross-border virtual care.

Standards

General Principles

- 1. All virtual care communications shall be conducted in accordance with relevant privacy legislation, including the *Personal Information Protection Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as applicable.
- 2. The use of virtual care does not alter the ethical, professional, and legal requirements surrounding the provision of care, which include, but are not limited to, informed consent, clinical record keeping, billing, and restrictions on advertising and marketing that all registrants must meet. When providing virtual care, the registrant must comply with all legal and ethical requirements set out in the legislation, College bylaws, practice standards, and other relevant laws, as well as ensure their practice remains within their scope.
- 3. The use of virtual care must be safe and clinically appropriate to a patient's needs for care. The registrant must exercise professional judgement and consider the patient's best interest on a case-by-case basis.
- 4. As with in-person care, the registrant must refer the patient to other health care practitioners when clinically appropriate.

Before providing the patient with virtual care, the registrant must:

- 5. Choose the communication technologies that are fit for purpose, can facilitate a quality encounter, and enable the standard of care to be met.
- 6. Ensure they have sufficient training, experience, and competency to provide services to, manage, and engage the patient through virtual care.
- 7. Ensure professional liability insurance as required by s.60.2 of the Bylaw covers virtual care.
- 8. Ensure that they are able to obtain sufficient information to make a reliable diagnosis.
- 9. Inform the patient of informed consent requirements, including the risks, benefits, scope, and limitations of virtual care, as well as alternate intervention methods and treatment options to virtual care to ensure the patient can provide informed consent.
- 10. Inform the patient of the applicable fees of virtual care service in advance of providing services and ensure that such fees are agreed to by the patient before service is provided. Note that third party insurers might not provide coverage for virtual care services.
- 11. Establish an alternative method of contacting the patient and provide the patient with an alternate method of contacting the registrant to address the possibility of failure of the primary means of communication during a virtual consultation.
- 12. Ensure there is appropriate technical support for troubleshooting in the event of difficulty with the technology.
- 13. Confirm the identify of the patient before a virtual care session begins.

During the virtual care visit, the registrant must:

- 14. Provide secured services with communication technology that are private and confidential, at a time and in a physical location where confidentiality can be maintained. All steps must be taken to ensure the confidentiality of the patient's personal health information is not compromised.
- 15. Ensure the registrant's identity, location, and registration status are known to the patient.
- 16. Ensure that the identities of all other participants involved in the virtual care encounter (if there are any) are disclosed to and approved by the patient. Consent should be obtained and documented in the patient record.
- 17. Obtain consent from the patient if information and data is collected and stored by videotape, photograph, or digital media.

Following a virtual care visit, the registrant must:

- 18. Maintain adequate clinical records of the virtual care session to meet all existing clinical record keeping requirements set by the College. The record should clearly identify that the service was provided remotely via virtual care.
- 19. Clearly state that the service was delivered via virtual care on all receipts. If insurance claims are made on behalf of the patient, the information that the service was provided via virtual care must be included in the claims.

Practice Advice

The registrant needs to exercise professional judgment in assessing the effectiveness of the technology for gathering the required information for making a TCM diagnosis and for providing an appropriate treatment. That assessment should be adaptable, as the appropriateness of technology can change when the presenting problem(s) and care need(s) change.

TCM services like consultations, treatment planning, and monitoring, home-based modalities (e.g., guiding patients in acupressure techniques and qi gong), TCM herbal medicine, and TCM dietary therapy may be appropriate for virtual delivery. However, treatment modalities such as acupuncture needling, cupping, gua sha, and tui na cannot be conducted as virtual care services.

When determining the appropriateness of virtual care through the lens of the patient's best interest, the registrant should consider and ensure their decisions reflect the following factors:

- the nature of the presenting complaint and level of care required, including whether a physical examination is required to meet the standard of care;
- the patient's existing health status and specific healthcare needs:
- whether the benefits of virtual care outweigh any potential risks to the patient;
- the patient's specific circumstances and preferences (e.g., financial hardship, mobility limitations, distance required to travel to an in-person appointment, ability to take time off from work, or any language and/or communication barriers); and
- the technology available to the patient and their ability to effectively utilize the technology.

The registrant should ensure that virtual care conversations cannot be overheard by a third-party at the registrant's end or the patient's end by taking reasonable precautionary measures, such as only conducting virtual care calls in a private and secure space.

Adapted from and thanks to:

College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC) https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Telemedicine.pdf

College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC (CNPBC) http://www.cnpbc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Telemedicine.pdf

College of Physical Therapists of BC (CPTBC)

https://cptbc.org/physical-therapists/practice-resources/advice-to-consider/tele-rehabilitation/

College of Speech and Hearing Professionals of BC (CSHBC)

https://www.cshbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CSHBC-SOP-PRAC-03-Virtual-Care.pdf

College of Chiropractors of BC (CCBC)

https://www.chirobc.com/ccbc/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/PCH-Appendix-P-Telehealth.pdf



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提供患者远程看诊服务的执业准则

(生效日期: 2024年6月7日)

中文翻译仅供参考,如与英文文意有出入,则以英文版本为准。

卑诗省中医针灸管理局(简称管理局)的执业准则确立注册成员在提供传统中医治疗服务前必须达到的最低专业能力水平,管理局与其各委员会通过执业准则、法理学课程手册和其他相关法令,以评断注册成员的执业水平与专业行为。

在执业准则中,"必须"这个词代表管理局的要求,"建议"这个词表示管理局的期望,注册成员可以自行运用合理判断做决定。

定义

远程看诊:注册成员与患者没有现场接触,但通过通讯技术执业传统中医与/或针灸。通常远程看诊是利用电话与视讯会议之类的其他通讯媒介为患者提供服务。

患者所在辖区

管理局谨此提醒注册成员,每个辖区对远程看诊的要求可能不一样,注册成员除了必须满足卑诗省的牌照要求外,也必须遵守患者所在地区对于注册牌照的要求。某些辖区可能要求注册成员必须持有患者所在地的中医执业牌照才能进行远程看诊服务。请注意,管理局可能必须处理其他医疗监管辖区的患者针对注册成员提供远程看诊后提出的投诉。

在卑诗省,中医执业人员必须在 CTCMA 注册,才能从事中医行业授权的任何受限活动或使用受保护的中医职称。远程看诊虽不能提供针灸治疗,但可以提供中医诊断。因此,中医执业人员必须在 CTCMA 注册,才能向卑诗省的患者提供中医诊断。

此外,也提醒注册成员,给不同医疗监管辖区患者提供远程看诊服务可能影响其医疗责任险及承保范围。请注册成员在提供跨辖区远程看诊服务前务必确认自己有适当责任险保护。

标准

一般原则

- 1. 在远程看诊过程中,所有的沟通都必须遵守相关的隐私法规,包括:个人信息保护法 Personal Information Protection Act 与信息自由和隐私保护法 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act。
- 2. 所有与提供中医诊疗服务有关的道德实践要求、专业能力要求和法规要求,并不因远程看诊而有所不同,这些要求的范围包括但不限于以下方面:知情同意、临床记录保存、收费、广告与宣传限制等。注册成员提供远程看诊时,必须遵守省府相关法令、管理局细则、执业标准和其他相关法规,同时看诊服务不得逾越执业范畴。
- 3. 远程看诊必须以安全的方式进行,并符合患者在临床上的医疗需求。注册成员必须运用专业判断力,并根据每个具体情况,考虑患者的最佳利益。
- 4. 与当面看诊一样, 注册成员必须适时将患者转诊到其他医疗执业人员。

提供远程看诊服务之前,注册成员必须:

- 5. 在选择通讯技术时需满足:达到看诊的目的;让您与患者进行有质量的互动;让远程看诊 达到医疗服务标准。
- 6. 具备足够的培训、经验和能力来通过远程看诊提供医疗服务,进行管理并让患者参与其中。
- 7. 满足管理局细则 60.2 条的规定,确定所投保的医疗责任险足以承保远程看诊提供中医与/或针灸服务的风险。
- 8. 确认能够在远程看诊过程中取得足够的信息,以做出可靠的诊断。
- 9. 告知患者有关知情同意的要求,包括:诊疗风险、益处、远程看诊的范围与限制,以及除了远程看诊外的替代医疗干预与可行的治疗选择,告知患者这些信息是为了确保患者提供知情同意。
- **10**. 在提供服务前,告知患者远程看诊的费用,取得患者的同意后再开始看诊。请留意,第三方保险公司可能不承保远程看诊服务。
- 11. 为了应变远程看诊过程间通讯中断,请事前取得患者其他的联系方式,也提供患者与您联络的其他方式。
- 12. 确定自己能取得适合的技术支援,以便碰到通讯技术出现问题时能够排除故障。
- 13. 在远程看诊开始前,确认患者的身份。

提供远程看诊服务当中,注册成员必须:

中文翻译仅供参考, 如与英文文意有出入,则以英文版本为准

- **14.** 通过仅供个人使用并具有保密性的通讯技术,在一个能保障患者隐私的环境进行远程看诊。注册成员必须采取所有可能的步骤,以确保患者个人医疗信息的保密性。
- 15. 告知患者您的身份、所在地点与注册状态。
- **16.** 如果远程看诊有其他人员参与,务必事先告知患者在场人员的身份,并且取得患者的同意 才能让其他人在场,患者的同意必须记录在看诊纪录中。
- **17.** 如果注册成员使用录像、照片或数字媒体来收集信息和数据,那么必须先取得患者的同意。

提供远程看诊服务之后,注册成员必须:

- **18**. 详实做好每一次远程看诊的临床诊疗纪录,以满足管理局对于注册成员维持临床纪录的要求。纪录中必须明确注明看诊服务是通过远程提供的。
- 19. 在给患者的所有收据中注明服务是通过远程提供的。如果注册成员替患者申请保险补贴或 理赔,那么在申请时也必须注明看诊服务是通过远程提供的。

执业建议

注册成员必须运用专业判断力来评估通讯技术能否有效收集所需的信息,以做出诊断并提供适当的治疗方式。注册成员应该弹性调整原本的评估,当患者的病症与治疗需求有改变时,通讯技术的适宜性也可能改变。

中医服务,如咨询、治疗规划、健康监测、居家护理(如指导患者穴位按摩技术和气功)、中医草药和中医食疗可适时用于远程服务。但是,针灸、拔罐、刮痧和推拿等治疗方式不能以远程服务进行。

在从患者最大利益的角度确定远程看诊是否合适时,注册成员必须考虑以下因素,而且确保所做的决定能反映以下因素:

- 患者主诉的性质和所需的诊疗程度,包括是否有必要当面检查,以达到医疗服务标准。
- 患者目前的健康状况与具体的医疗需要。
- 远程看诊的益处是否大于对患者的任何潜在风险;
- 患者特殊的情况与偏好(例如:经济困难、行动不便、上门求诊距离太远、工作请假方便程度,或是任何语言或沟通障碍)。
- 患者能够取得的通讯技术,以及患者有效使用通讯技术的能力。

注册成员必须确定与患者的对话不会在注册成员所在空间和患者所在空间被第三者听到,合理的 预防举措是必要的,例如只在隐秘安全的空间提供远程看诊服务。

中文翻译仅供参考, 如与英文文意有出入,则以英文版本为准

特别感谢以下医疗管理局的信息协助:

卑诗省内科医师与外科医师管理局

https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Telemedicine.pdf

卑诗省自然疗法医师管理局

http://www.cnpbc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Telemedicine.pdf

卑诗省物理治疗师管理局

https://cptbc.org/physical-therapists/practice-resources/advice-to-consider/tele-rehabilitation/ 卑诗省语言与听力治疗师管理局

https://www.cshbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CSHBC-SOP-PRAC-03-Virtual-Care.pdf 卑诗省脊骨治疗师管理局

https://www.chirobc.com/ccbc/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/PCH-Appendix-P-Telehealth.pdf



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提供患者遠程看診服務的執業準則

(生效日期:2024年6月7日)

中文翻譯僅供參考,如與英文文意有出入,則以英文版本為准。

卑詩省中醫針灸管理局(簡稱管理局)的執業準則確立註冊成員在提供傳統中醫治療服務前必須達到的最低專業能力水準,管理局與其各委員會通過執業準則、法理學課程手冊和其他相關法令,以評斷註冊成員的執業水準與專業行為。

在執業準則中,"必須"這個詞代表管理局的要求,"建議"這個詞表示管理局的期望,註 冊成員可以自行運用合理判斷做決定。

定義

遠程看診:註冊成員與患者沒有現場接觸,但通過通訊技術執業傳統中醫與/或針灸。通常遠程 看診是利用電話與視訊會議之類的其他通訊媒介為患者提供服務。

患者所在轄區

管理局謹此提醒註冊成員,每個轄區對遠程看診的要求可能不一樣,註冊成員除了必須滿足卑詩省的牌照要求外,也必須遵守患者所在地區對於註冊牌照的要求。某些轄區可能要求註冊成員必須持有患者所在地的中醫執業牌照才能進行遠程看診服務。請注意,管理局可能必須處理其他醫療監管轄區的患者針對註冊成員提供遠程看診後提出的投訴。

在卑詩省,中醫執業人員必須在 CTCMA 註冊,才能從事中醫行業授權的任何受限活動或使用受保護的中醫職稱。遠程看診雖不能提供針灸治療,但可以提供中醫診斷。因此,中醫執業人員必須在 CTCMA 註冊,才能向卑詩省的患者提供中醫診斷。

此外,也提醒註冊成員,給不同醫療監管轄區患者提供遠程看診服務可能影響其醫療責任險及承保範圍。請註冊成員在提供跨轄區遠程看診服務前務必確認自己有適當責任險保護。

標準

一般原則

- 1. 在遠程看診過程中,所有的溝通都必須遵守相關的隱私法規,包括:個人資訊保護法 Personal Information Protection Act 與資訊自由和隱私保護法 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act。
- 2. 所有與提供中醫診療服務有關的道德實踐要求、專業能力要求和法規要求,並不因遠程看診而有所不同,這些要求的範圍包括但不限於以下方面:知情同意、臨床記錄保存、收費、廣告與宣傳限制等。註冊成員提供遠程看診時,必須遵守省府相關法令、管理局細則、執業標準和其他相關法規,同時看診服務不得逾越執業範疇。
- 3. 遠程看診必須以安全的方式進行,並符合患者臨床上的醫療需求。註冊成員必須運用專業 判斷力,並根據每個具體情況,考慮患者的最佳利益。
- 4. 與當面看診一樣,註冊成員必須適時將患者轉診到其他醫療執業人員。

提供遠程看診服務之前,註冊成員必須:

- 5. 在選擇通訊技術時需要滿足:達到看診的目的;讓您與患者進行有品質的互動;讓看遠程 診達到醫療服務標準。
- 6. 具備足夠的培訓、經驗和能力來通過遠程看診提供醫療服務,進行管理並讓患者參與其中。
- 7. 滿足管理局細則 60.2 條的規定,確定所投保的醫療責任險足以承保遠程看診提供中醫與/ 或針灸服務的風險。
- 8. 確認能夠在遠程看診過程中取得足夠的資訊,以做出可靠的診斷。
- 9. 告知患者有關知情同意的要求,包括:診療風險、益處、遠程看診的範圍與限制,以及除了遠程看診外的替代醫療干預與可行的治療選擇,告知患者這些資訊是為了確保患者提供知情同意。
- **10**. 在提供服務前,告知患者遠程看診的費用,取得患者的同意後再開始看診。請留意,第三方保險公司可能不承保遠程看診服務。
- 11. 為了應變遠程看診過程間通訊中斷,請事前取得患者其他的聯繫方式,也提供患者與您聯絡的其他方式。
- 12. 確定自己能取得適合的技術支援,以便碰到通訊技術出現問題時能夠排除故障。
- 13. 在遠程看診開始前,確認患者的身份。

提供遠程看診服務當中,註冊成員必須:

中文翻譯僅供參考, 如與英文文意有出入,則以英文版本為准

- **14.** 通過僅供個人使用並具有保密性的通訊技術,在一個能保障患者隱私的環境進行遠程看診。註冊成員必須採取所有可能的步驟,以確保患者個人醫療資訊的保密性。
- 15. 告知患者您的身份、所在地點與註冊狀態。
- **16.** 如果遠程看診有其他人員參與,務必事先告知患者在場人員的身份,並且取得患者的同意 才能讓其他人在場,患者的同意必須記錄在看診紀錄中。
- 17. 如果註冊成員使用錄影、照片或數位媒體來收集資訊和資料,那麼必須先取得患者的同意。

提供遠程看診服務之後, 註冊成員必須:

- 18. 詳實做好每一次遠程看診的臨床診療紀錄,以滿足管理局對於註冊成員維持臨床紀錄的要求。紀錄中必須明確註明看診服務是通過遠程提供的。
- 19. 在給患者的所有收據中注明服務是通過遠程提供的。如果註冊成員替患者申請保險補貼或 理賠,那麼在申請時也必須注明看診服務是通過遠程提供的。

執業建議

註冊成員必須運用專業判斷力來評估通訊技術能否有效收集所需的信息,以做出診斷並提供適當的治療方式。註冊成員應該彈性調整原本的評估,當患者的病症與治療需求有改變時,通訊技術的適宜性也可能改變。

中醫服務,如諮詢、治療規劃、健康監測、居家護理(如指導患者穴位按摩技術和氣功)、中醫草藥和中醫食療可適時用於遠程服務。但是,針灸、拔罐、刮痧和推拿等治療方式不能以遠程服務進行。

在從患者最大利益的角度確定遠程看診是否合適時,註冊成員必須考慮以下因素,而且確保所做的決定能反映以下因素:

- 患者主訴的性質和所需的診療程度,包括是否有必要當面檢查,以達到醫療服務標準。
- 患者目前的健康狀況與具體的醫療需要。
- 遠程看診的益處是否大於對患者的任何潛在風險。
- 患者特殊的情況與偏好(例如:經濟困難、行動不便、上門求診距離太遠、工作請假方便 程度,或是任何語言或溝通障礙)。
- 患者能夠取得的通訊技術,以及患者有效使用通訊技術的能力。

註冊成員必須確定與患者的對話不會在註冊成員所在空間和患者所在空間被第三者聽到,合理的 預防舉措是必要的,例如只在隱秘安全的空間提供遠程看診服務。

中文翻譯僅供參考, 如與英文文意有出入,則以英文版本為准

特別感謝以下醫療管理局的資訊協助:

卑詩省內科醫師與外科醫師管理局

https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Telemedicine.pdf

卑詩省自然療法醫師管理局

http://www.cnpbc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Telemedicine.pdf

卑詩省物理治療師管理局

https://cptbc.org/physical-therapists/practice-resources/advice-to-consider/tele-rehabilitation/ 卑詩省語言與聽力治療師管理局

https://www.cshbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CSHBC-SOP-PRAC-03-Virtual-Care.pdf 卑詩省脊骨治療師管理局

https://www.chirobc.com/ccbc/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/PCH-Appendix-P-Telehealth.pdf