



Clinical Practice Standard: Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging

Frequency Asked Questions

Q: What is a clinical practice standard?

A: Prior to the formation of CCHPBC, legacy colleges used different terminology to refer to requirements for licensees, such as standards, handbooks, and policies. CCHPBC will use the consistent terminology of **professional standards** and **clinical practice standards**. In comparison to professional standards, which are the core requirements that licensees must meet to act professionally and ethically, clinical practice standards set out requirements for higher-risk areas of professional scope of practice, which may vary by profession.

Q: Why was a new standard developed?

A: In 2020, amendments were made to Part 15 – Diagnostic Imaging of the Professional Conduct Handbook (PCH) by the former College of Chiropractors of BC (CCBC). The development of the new clinical practice standard concludes a review and evaluation of Part 15 of the PCH that was initiated by the legacy college in 2023.

Q: Does this new clinical practice standard have any bearing on referral authority for publicly funded diagnostic imaging by chiropractors?

A: No, College standards only relate to safety and quality of care provided by a chiropractor. The College does not have jurisdiction over public health funding.



Q: Why do we have to receive informed consent from the patient to proceed with diagnostic imaging?

A: In addition to this clinical practice standard, chiropractors must incorporate all Professional Standards that apply, such as Informed Consent and Integrated Person-Centred Care, which supports a shared decision-making process. Explaining the purpose of applying X-rays, expected benefits, potential risks, and engaging in shared decision making with the patient is necessary to obtain and document informed consent.

Q: Does informed consent have to be obtained in writing prior to taking an X-ray?

A: From the Professional Standard: Informed Consent, informed consent is defined as a voluntary, informed agreement made by a capable person. Whether written consent from a patient is required as opposed to verbal consent will be based on the professional discretion of the licensee.

Q: When does the new clinical practice standard come into effect?

A: The Clinical Practice Standard: Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging comes into effect on April 1, 2026. Until that time [Part 15 – Diagnostic Imaging from the Professional Conduct Handbook](#) is in effect.

Q: Some health authorities allow chiropractors to access patient imaging results from health authority facilities. This is not allowed in my health authority. Can the college advocate for the same access across health authorities?

A: The College does not have jurisdiction over the health authorities' processes or decisions on access to publicly funded diagnostic imaging results, and therefore, it is not part of the Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging standard.



The Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging standard sets expectations that the chiropractor must meet when applying or authorizing diagnostic imaging.

Q: Is it possible to change the DC Radiographic Equipment Ownership Guidelines so that we no longer shield patients?

A: The College is currently reviewing the Radiographic Equipment Ownership Guideline. An updated guidance document will be shared with chiropractors when it is available.

Q: What if my patients request an X-ray?

A: Even though a patient may request an X-ray, it remains the chiropractor's responsibility to use their professional judgement to ensure it is clinically indicated, and in the best interest of the patient to have imaging, taking into consideration all other professionals standard and an evidence-based practice approach.