

# Professional Standard: Practice Environment



College of  
**COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS OF BC**



Principle	Outcome Statement
<b>As a licensee, you must meet the following Principles within the Professional Standard: Practice Environment.</b>	<b>People receiving health care services from a CCHPBC licensee expect that their health care practitioner will:</b>
<b>Principle 1:</b> CCHPBC licensees must comply with all applicable jurisdictional licensing, regulatory, and legal requirements that apply to their practice environment, including privacy legislation.	Provide treatment in an environment that complies with legal, jurisdictional, regulatory, and privacy requirements.
<b>Principle 2:</b> CCHPBC licensees must maintain a practice environment that is clean, hygienic, and safe.	Maintain a practice environment that is clean, hygienic and safe.
<b>Principle 3:</b> CCHPBC licensees must continuously assess their practice environment for risks of contamination and transmission of infectious agents during patient assessment and treatment.	Continuously monitor their environment for risks of contamination and exposure to infectious diseases.
<b>Principle 4:</b> CCHPBC licensees who offer treatment in group settings must provide care in their patients' best interests, and in a manner that complies with practice standards, maintains insurance coverage, and safeguards privacy.	Deliver treatment in a group setting only when it is in the patient's best interest, and with patient consent.



## Definitions

**additional precautions:** infection prevention and control interventions that are applied in addition to routine precautions for certain pathogens or clinical practices, based on the method of transmission (e.g., contact, droplet, airborne).

**electronic recording device:** a device which may have features including photographic, video or audio recording capacity, and includes but is not limited to: mobile electronic devices, desktop and laptop computers, and tablets.

**personal protective equipment (PPE):** specialized clothing or equipment (e.g., medical gloves, masks, plastic apron) worn for protection against infectious hazards.

**point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA):** an activity whereby health care providers evaluate the likelihood of exposure to an infectious agent and choose the appropriate actions or PPE needed to minimize the risk of exposure.

**practice environment:** the physical environment where a licensee delivers treatment and provides care to patients, as well as to the objects and equipment within that environment. Depending on the location, size and layout of the practice environment, it may include spaces such as waiting rooms, entry areas, exercise areas, staff rooms, washrooms and treatment rooms, as well other locations such as residential care facilities, hospitals, and sporting or other public events.

**routine practices:** a Health Canada term used to describe basic standards of infection prevention and control that are required for safe patient care. Routine practices are based on the concept that all patients are potentially infective, even when asymptomatic, and that the same safe standards of practice should routinely apply to contact with blood, body fluids and secretions (e.g., saliva), mucous membranes, and non-intact skin.



**Principle 1:** CCHPBC licensees must comply with all applicable jurisdictional licensing, regulatory, and legal requirements that apply to their practice environment, including privacy legislation.

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To meet this standard, CCHPBC licensees must:

- 1.1 Adhere to all relevant legislation, regulations, and applicable codes and municipal bylaws related to their practice setting (e.g., Building Code, Fire Code, Plumbing Code, and municipal zoning bylaws regarding parking, access, and health department approval).
- 1.2 Adhere to applicable privacy legislation (including the *Personal Information Protection Act*) in the practice environment, including with respect to storage of patient health care records, surveillance camera, and imaging, videotaping or audio recording of patients for therapeutic purposes.
- 1.3 Adhere to all applicable legislation, regulations, and public health directives related to infection prevention and control (IPAC) best practices.

**Principle 2:** CCHPBC licensees must maintain a practice environment that is clean, hygienic, and safe.

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To meet this standard, CCHPBC licensees must:

- 2.1 Maintain a clean and hygienic practice environment and common areas, including by:
  - 2.1.1 regularly cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces and equipment,
  - 2.1.2 keeping the practice environment, including common and treatment spaces, free of obstacles, and
  - 2.1.3 implementing infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices without delay.



- 2.2 Ensure personal health and safety measures are followed by the licensee and their staff, including practising adequate hand and personal hygiene.
- 2.3 Select personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, gowns, and masks, appropriately based on the level of risk and type of care provided.
- 2.4 Apply appropriate environmental measures, including by:
  - 2.4.1 implementing cleaning and disinfection protocols;
  - 2.4.2 sterilizing (or disposing of, as appropriate) supplies, equipment, and laundry; and
  - 2.4.3 safely using and disposing of sharps and other biohazard waste.
- 2.5 Inspect, maintain, and replace equipment in accordance with manufacturer guidelines or accepted best practices.
- 2.6 Maintain adequate lighting and sufficient space to provide patient care safely.
- 2.7 Ensure emergency preparedness, including:
  - 2.7.1 Unobstructed exits.
  - 2.7.2 Functional fire extinguishers and a first aid kit.
  - 2.7.3 Participation in emergency preparedness training appropriate to the practice environment, such as fire and earthquake drills.
- 2.8 Provide access to a bathroom and sink, as appropriate for the practice environment, either within or reasonably near the practice environment.
- 2.9 Ensure the use of an electronic recording device when providing care to a patient is only used for the permitted purposes of intake, assessment, treatment, charting or education, as well as voice recording, and:
  - 2.9.1 Explain the proposed use of the electronic recording device, and confirm that the electronic recording device will not be used for any other purpose.
  - 2.9.2 Obtain and document verbal consent to use the electronic recording device for the stated purpose.



- 2.9.3 Ensure that the electronic recording device is not positioned in a manner that would enable video, photographic or audio recording of the patient without the patient's knowledge and consent.

**Principle 3:** CCHPBC licensees must continuously assess their practice environment for risks of contamination and transmission of infectious agents before and during patient assessment and treatment.

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To meet this standard, CCHPBC licensees must:

- 3.1 Conduct point-of-care risk assessments prior to each patient interaction.
  - 3.1.1 Document risks identified during point-of-care assessments in the patient health record where appropriate.
  - 3.1.2 Address identified risks promptly through appropriate IPAC measures.
  - 3.1.3 Inform patients, staff, and other relevant individuals of precautions when necessary to prevent transmission.
- 3.2 Document any IPAC-related incidents that occur either at the point-of-care or within the practice environment.
- 3.3 Notify patients of any incidents where IPAC practices could not be maintained and/or where a patient was exposed to significant risk of infectious disease transmission.
- 3.4 Comply with *Public Health Act* requirements regarding mandatory reporting as appropriate.



**Principle 4:** CCHPBC licensees who offer treatment in group settings must provide care in their patients' best interests, and in a manner that complies with practice standards, maintains insurance coverage, and safeguards privacy.

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To meet this standard, CCHPBC licensees must:

- 4.1 Ensure all standards of practice applicable to individual care are met when providing services in a group setting.
- 4.2 Ensure delivering services in a group setting is in the best interest of each patient, considering their health status, care needs, and personal circumstances.
- 4.3 Provide access to a private room or alternative arrangements when a patient requests privacy for examinations or sensitive discussions.
- 4.4 Maintain adequate professional liability insurance that covers services delivered in group settings.
- 4.5 Safeguard patient privacy and confidentiality by ensuring all participants understand and agree to maintain the confidentiality of any health information shared in the group setting.
- 4.6 Not promote any type of group services as social gatherings or parties.

not in force until April 2026