



Clinical Practice Standard: Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging HPOA Webinar Series

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FAQ

Q: What is a Clinical Practice Standard?

Clinical practice standards set out requirements for high-risk areas of professional scope of practice and may differ across professions. In contrast, professional standards establish the minimum requirements that licensees must meet to practise professionally and ethically. CCHPBC will use the consistent terminology of [Professional Standards](#) and [Clinical Practice Standards](#), replacing legacy college language such as standards, handbooks, and policies.

Q: Why was the Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging standard developed?

In 2020, amendments were made to Part 15 – Diagnostic Imaging of the former Professional Conduct Handbook by the former College of Chiropractors of BC (CCBC). The updated Clinical Practice Standard completes the review and evaluation of Part 15 that was initiated by the legacy college in 2023.

Q: When did the new Clinical Practice Standard come into effect?

The [Clinical Practice Standard: Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging](#) came into effect on April 1, 2026.

Q: Does the clinical standard have any bearing on referral authority for publicly funded imaging by chiropractors?



No. College standards address only the safety and quality of care provided by chiropractors. The College does not have jurisdiction over public health funding.

Q: What if my patient requests an X-ray?

Even if patients request an X-ray, it remains the responsibility of the chiropractic licensee to use their professional judgement to determine whether imaging is clinically indicated in the patient's best interest, taking into account applicable Professional Standards and an evidence-based approach.

Q: Can I use imaging to screen patients for contraindications to treatment?

A chiropractic licensee is responsible for determining whether imaging is needed based on the patient's history, presentation, physical examination and any prior imaging, including whether imaging is required to rule out contraindications to the proposed treatment plan.

Q: Is informed consent from the patient required to proceed with diagnostic imaging?

In addition to this Practice Standard, chiropractic licensees must comply with all applicable Professional Standards, including [Informed Consent](#) and [Integrated Person-Centred Care](#), which support shared decision-making. Prior to obtaining and documenting the patient's Informed Consent to apply or authorize X-rays, licensees must engage the patient in shared decision making by explaining the purpose, expected benefits, and potential risks of the proposed procedure. Documented consent is required for certain higher-risk assessments or therapies.

Q: My understanding is that some health authorities allow chiropractors to access imaging results from health authority facilities. This is not allowed by my governing health authority. Can the College advocate for the same access across health authorities?

The College does not have jurisdiction over the health authorities' processes or decisions on access to publicly funded diagnostic imaging results, and it is expressly not in the College's scope as a regulator. The Clinical Practice Standard applies only to chiropractic licensees when applying or authorizing imaging.



Q: Is it possible to change the Chiropractic Radiographic Ownership Guidelines to reflect that shielding for patients is no longer required?

The College has reviewed and updated the Radiographic Equipment Ownership Guideline to **Guidance** X-Ray Equipment: Chiropractic. This document includes information to reflect current best practices regarding patient shielding guidelines.

Q: Do I need to provide X-ray registration to the College if I practice and use the equipment at a facility that I do not own?

Chiropractic licensees who practice in a facility with X-ray equipment owned by another licensee do not need to provide X-ray registration information or the *certificate* to CCHPBC. The facility owner is ultimately responsible for the radiation safety of a diagnostic X-ray facility. However, all licensees must ensure the equipment has a valid *certificate* before operating it themselves.