

Diagnostic Outpatient Ultrasound Facility Moratorium Exception Evaluation Process

Applications for new, expansion and/or relocation of outpatient diagnostic ultrasound, laboratory medicine and specimen collection station facilities in British Columbia are under temporary moratorium, with the exception of fee items currently restricted to public hospitals i.e. Echocardiography and Doppler Studies.

Applications for addition of services to an existing ultrasound Certificate of Approval will continue to be accepted.

Exceptions to the moratorium may be made for demonstrated urgent health or safety needs.

However, the Medical Services **Commission will only accept a moratorium request for exception from facilities holding a current ultrasound Certificate of Approval from the Medical Services Commission, or the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities.**

To be considered for an exception to the moratorium, a facility must:

- **Hold a current ultrasound Certificate of Approval from the Medical Services Commission, or the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities.**
- complete the following questions, providing as much detail about the situation as possible;
- add any additional information or documents desired; and
- save all documents to a computer and then submit them through the secure upload tool of the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities (ACDF), found at:
<https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/exforms/acdf/submit.html>

When an exceptions request is received, the ACDF Secretariat will review and verify the information submitted to the extent possible. All information will be provided to the Medical Services Commission (MSC) for their review. The MSC will make a decision as to whether the proponent meets the urgent health or safety needs moratorium criterion. If so, the proponent will then be invited to complete a formal application to the ACDF

NOTE: the following questions cannot be completed on-line at this time.

Please address the questions in a separate document. Save the document and any supporting material (in PDF, JPEG, PNG, TIF, GIF or BMP format) and submit through the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities' secure upload tool.

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Moratorium Exception Request

General

- Name of proponent facility/organization holding an existing Certificate of Approval from the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities (ACDF) and/or Medical Services Commission (MSC)
- Contact name
- Contact email and phone number

Facility and Service

- Location of facility seeking the moratorium exception (street address)

- If an exception to the moratorium was granted, would the ensuing application be for (indicate one only):
 - A new facility
 - Physical/capacity expansion of a facility
 - Relocation of a facility
 - Physical/capacity expansion and relocation of a facility

- If an exception to the moratorium was granted, what services would be applied for? Be as specific as possible (include service category(s) and fee codes if applicable).

- Please indicate the number of ultrasound units/rooms proposed.
 - How does this number compare to the number of ultrasound units/rooms in the existing ACDF/MSC approved facility?

Exception Criterion

What are the “demonstrated urgent health or safety needs” your proposed application would address? Provide as much detail as possible.

- If the urgent health or safety needs pertain to wait times, include detail regarding :
 - Current wait times at the applicant facility (facility holding an existing ultrasound Certificate of Approval from the ACDF and/or MSC)
 - Current wait times at other facilities in the area
 - What category of ultrasound services do these wait times apply to? (*Note: The current MSC-approved wait time benchmark for urgent, non-emergency ultrasounds is 10 working days; no MSC-approved wait time benchmarks currently are in place for non-urgent, or other categories of ultrasound*).

If this request concerns a new or expanded diagnostic ultrasound facility, please include detail regarding:

- where sonographers would be recruited from; and
- if using a contracted provider, where the contracting firm recruits sonographers from.

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Proponent facility may include additional information or documents as desired.