



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
POLICY COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: All Health Authorities

TRANSMITTAL DATE: November 30, 2016

COMMUNIQUÉ NUMBER: 2016-09

CLIFF NUMBER: 1061682

SUBJECT: Public Provision of Transient Elastography

DETAILS: Reference Documents:
2013-13 Policy Communiqué: The Health Technology Review: Evaluation and Assessment Process for Non-Drug Technologies

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

MINISTRY CONTACTS: Executive Director, Public Health Services,
Population and Public Health Division
Executive Director, Knowledge Management Branch,
Partnerships and Innovation Division

Stephen Brown
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Health Technology Review (HTR) process was established by Leadership Council to provide evidence informed recommendations about the public provision of non-drug health technologies that will contribute to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of British Columbians and provide value for money. A Memorandum of Understanding setting out the terms of cooperation, agreement and expectations for a provincial non-drug health technology assessment process was signed by health authority Chief Executive Officers and the Deputy Minister of Health in November 2011. Further information about the HTR may be found at www.health.gov.bc.ca/htr/.

Liver biopsy is typically considered the gold standard for staging liver disease. However, liver biopsies are invasive and transient elastography (TE) provides a non-invasive alternative for assessing fibrosis. Through the HTR, the evidence associated with the use of transient elastography (TE) in the assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with hepatitis B and/or C was reviewed by the BC Health Technology Assessment Committee (HTAC) and recommendations finalized in March 2016. The body of evidence suggests that TE has comparable diagnostic accuracy to liver biopsy, and is likely to provide good value for money.

The HTAC's recommendations were presented to the Standing Committee of Interdisciplinary Co-Chairs and Leadership Council in May 2016. This policy is based on Leadership Council's decision.

Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to guide the public provision of transient elastography (TE) within British Columbia.

Scope

This policy applies to all Health Authorities in BC, within all facilities and programs delivered and/or funded by health authorities.

Policy

Transient elastography (TE) is to be publicly provided in BC, but restricted to the assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with hepatitis B and/or C. Use of TE beyond the assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with hepatitis B and/or C is not permitted at this time, as other indications were beyond the scope of this review. Alternative clinical indications for transient elastography (TE) should be assessed through the HTR where there is health authority interest.

Implementation

This policy is effective immediately.

References/Related Policies

Ministry of Health Policy Communiqué 2013-13: *Provincial Health Technology Review (Non-Drug, Non-IT)*

Review

There are other types of elastography that may be effective and cost-effective. Alternative types of elastography technologies should be assessed through the Health Technology Review (HTR) process where there is health authority interest. Should new evidence become available regarding elastography technologies, this policy will be reviewed by the Ministry of Health, in consultation with health authorities.

Contacts

For information on this policy, contact Mikhail Torban (Mikhail.Torban@gov.bc.ca), Manager Communicable Disease Prevention and Vulnerable Populations or Executive Director, Public Health Services Branch & Office of Aboriginal Health, Population and Public Health Division, Ministry of Health.

For information on the Health Technology Review and the HTA Committee's findings and recommendations, contact the Executive Director, Knowledge Management Branch, Partnerships and Innovation Division, Ministry of Health.