



April 16, 2020

1161608

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: Medical Services Commission Temporary Moratorium on Outpatient Ultrasound Facility Applications

The Medical Services Commission (the Commission) of British Columbia has extended the current temporary moratorium on applications for all diagnostic outpatient ultrasound facilities. This extension was determined to be necessary due to the continued and significant shortage of ultrasound sonographers in the province.

Currently scheduled to end June 1, 2020, **the moratorium on applications for diagnostic outpatient ultrasound facilities has now been extended until June 1, 2022.**

The continued ultrasound moratorium will apply to:

- All applications in British Columbia for new, relocation or expansion of capacity for all ultrasound categories and procedures under the authority of the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities, with the exception of those fee items currently restricted to public hospitals i.e., Echocardiography and (cardiac) Doppler Studies.

Exceptions to the moratorium may be made for demonstrated urgent health or safety needs. However, the **Commission will only accept a moratorium request for exception from applicants with at least one facility that holds a current ultrasound or radiology Certificate of Approval from the Medical Services Commission, or the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities, except in rare/exceptional circumstances.**

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

A copy of this announcement will be posted to the Diagnostic Facilities [website](#). If you have questions or comments, contact Woodrow (Woody) Turnquist, Director, Diagnostic Services, Access and Wait Times Branch, Ministry of Health, at Woody.Turnquist@gov.bc.ca.

Regards,

Dr. Robert Halpenny
Chair
Medical Services Commission