



May 19, 2017

1084788

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, 2017, **the moratorium on applications for diagnostic outpatient ultrasound facilities has now been extended until June 1, 2020.**

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 Doppler Studies.

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

Exception 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 facilities holding a current ultrasound Certificate of Approval from the Medical Services Commission, or the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities.**

A copy of this announcement will be posted to the Diagnostic Facilities [website](#). For additional questions or comments, contact Woodrow (Woody) Turnquist, Director, Diagnostic Services, Laboratory, Diagnostic and Blood Services Branch, Ministry of Health, at (250) 356-1778 or email: woody.turnquist@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Halpenny".

Dr. Robert Halpenny
Chair
Medical Services Commission

Medical Services Commission

Office of the Chair

3-1, 1515 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8
Telephone: (250) 952-3073
Facsimile: (250) 952-3131