

Diagnostic Outpatient Ultrasound Facility Moratorium Exception Evaluation Process

Applications for new, expansion and/or relocation of outpatient diagnostic ultrasound facilities in British Columbia are under temporary moratorium, with the exception of fee items currently restricted to public hospitals i.e. Echocardiography and (Cardiac) 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 applicants with at least one facility that holds a current ultrasound or radiology Certificate of Approval from the Medical Services Commission (MSC), or the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities (ACDF), except in rare/exceptional circumstances.**

Note: In some areas of the province, the ACDF/MSC has determined there is no current medical need for additional capacity for a certain modality or service.

When such a decision has been made, pursuant to the ACDF's *Subsequent Applications, Implementation and Lapse in Service* policy (see Part 4, *Policies and Guidelines of the Medical Services Commission's Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities*), the ACDF will not accept further applications for the same service in the same geographic catchment area for a period of 18 months from the date of the original application that was denied due to a determination of insufficient medical need within the geographic catchment area.

For a list of those areas where applications are currently not being accepted, see [ACDF Key Decisions](#).

To be considered for an exception to the ultrasound moratorium, applicants must:

- **Have 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;**
- complete the following questions, providing as much detail about the situation as possible;
- add any additional information or documents desired;
- save all documents to a computer and then submit them through the [ACDF secure upload tool](#); and
- ensure that the Request for Exception is authorized (signed) by the current Chief Executive Officer or owner of the approved diagnostic facility making the request - the same individual who would sign any formal facility application to the ACDF.

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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 for review. The MSC will determine 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 facility that holds a **current Ultrasound or Radiology Certificate of Approval from the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities or the Medical Services Commission.**
- 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 units/rooms in the existing ACDF/MSC approved facility?

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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 (if facility holds a current ultrasound Certificate of Approval from the ACDF/MSC)
 - Current wait times at other facilities in the area
 - What priority 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.*
 - *Wait times for ultrasound tests prioritized as those that should be completed within 30 days of referral may be considered in addition to, or in conjunction with, the established ultrasound benchmark time of 10 working days for urgent, non-emergency ultrasound. Such a consideration is to be applied on a case-by-case basis, relative to facility wait times for the established wait time benchmark.*

- 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. Proponent facility may include additional information or documents as desired.

Please ensure that the Request for Exception is authorized (signed) by the current Chief Executive Officer or owner of the approved diagnostic facility making the request.

Completed Request for Exception documents should be submitted through the [Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities' secure upload tool](#).