

Update to authorized health professionals permitted to submit HSAT referrals

The purpose of this communication is to provide clarification about the authorized health professions that are permitted to submit referrals for home sleep apnea testing (HSAT).

The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Medical Services Commission's Guidelines and Protocols Advisory Committee and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC published a [provincial standardized requisition form for home sleep apnea testing](#). The form is required for all practitioner referrals to an accredited HSAT facility.

Only authorized health professionals are permitted to submit referrals for Level III HSAT studies. Authorized health professionals are limited to registrants of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, nurse practitioners registered with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, and naturopathic physicians registered with the College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC.

Naturopathic physicians are permitted to refer for HSAT for the diagnosis of sleep disordered breathing with the following understanding and responsibilities:

1. If the authorized health professional is a naturopathic physician, the results of the HSAT are to be sent back to the ordering naturopathic physician. The patient may also request the results go to their family physician, specialist or nurse practitioner.
2. If further Level I (overnight, in-lab polysomnography) testing is required, then the patient must be referred back to their family physician, specialist, nurse practitioner or other physician for follow up and referral for further testing.
3. Naturopathic physicians are not permitted to write a prescription for any therapeutic device, such as CPAP, including any trial of the therapeutic device.
4. The patient must be informed that the test or service is not covered by the Medical Services Plan, unless they are referred by a family physician, specialist or nurse practitioner, and the patient may have to pay directly for the diagnostic test, in addition to any fee charged by the naturopathic physician.

When HSAT is the identified appropriate diagnostic test, authorized health professionals are expected to refer only to an accredited facility. A list of accredited HSAT facilities is available on the [College website](#).

Please direct any comments or questions concerning the accreditation process for HSAT to the Diagnostic Accreditation Program at dap@cpsbc.ca.