



October 25, 2023

1270680

Dear Stakeholder:

RE: Medical Services Commission Moratorium on Outpatient Ultrasound Facility Applications

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

Currently scheduled to end December 1, 2023, **the moratorium on applications for diagnostic outpatient ultrasound facilities has been extended, with modifications, until December 1, 2025.**

The ultrasound moratorium will continue to apply to:

- All applicants in British Columbia for new, relocation or expansion of capacity for all ultrasound categories and procedures under the authority of the Commission's Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities, apart from 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 Commission or the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities, except in rare/exceptional circumstances.

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

In addition, facilities with a current radiology-only approval may apply directly to the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities to add diagnostic outpatient ultrasound, without requiring a request for exception (standard assessment criteria will apply).

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Further, all diagnostic outpatient ultrasound applications and/or exception requests from Community Imaging Clinics must include a verifiable commitment to clinical placement of sonography students.

A copy of this announcement will be posted to the [Diagnostic Facilities website](#).

If you have questions or comments, please contact Woodrow (Woody) Turnquist, Director, Diagnostic Services, Beneficiary and Diagnostic Services Branch, Ministry of Health at Woody.Turnquist@gov.bc.ca.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Halpenny". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Dr. Robert Halpenny
Chair
Medical Services Commission