



Out-of-Hospital Premises Inspection Program FAQs for the Public

Why did this inspection program begin?

The College strongly advocated for this regulatory oversight to improve patient safety, as the safeguards typically in place in hospitals had not necessarily existed in these premises.

As a result of legislation and regulations enacted by the government in 2010, the College is now able to inspect out-of-hospital premises where procedures are performed using certain types of anesthesia.

What types of procedures are captured under the new regulation?

Out-of-hospital premises procedures include cosmetic surgery, endoscopy and interventional pain management that are performed using specified types of anesthesia, such as general anesthesia, sedation, most types of regional anesthesia and, in some cases, local anesthesia. Currently there are 276 such premises in Ontario.

What is the inspection timeframe?

All new premises must undergo an inspection before they are permitted to open. Premises that were already operational must be inspected within 24 months. Thereafter, premises will be inspected every five years or sooner if we deem it advisable to do so. In addition, any doctor who wishes to begin practising at a premises between inspections must be approved by the College.

How are premises inspections conducted?

One nurse assessment coordinator and at least one physician inspector/assessor conduct each inspection. There is always one physician from the specialty under review (i.e., a plastic surgeon conducts an inspection of a premises where cosmetic surgery is being performed). An anesthesiologist inspector is also part of the inspection team in premises where a higher level of anesthesia is being administered (i.e., anything above local anesthesia). The premises undergoes an inspection to ensure it is a safe environment, and the physicians performing procedures in the premises are assessed to determine whether they are qualified to perform the procedures in question.

What does the inspection entail?

The following are inspected and/or assessed: **premises requirements**, including the procedure or operating room, and recovery room (i.e., building standards; equipment; general medication standards; and drugs and equipment for resuscitation); **staff qualifications**, including physicians performing the procedures and administering

anesthesia, and other health professionals; **patient admission requirements, intra-operative/procedure care and post-procedure standards**, including emergency measures; **infection control standards; quality assurance activity**, including monitoring and reporting adverse events. There is also an observation component of the inspection where procedures performed at the premises are observed by all assessors.

What type of follow-up occurs after an inspection?

A premises either passes; passes with conditions; or fails the inspection.

If the premises has met the required standards, it passes the inspection and will be inspected again within five years.

If deficiencies are identified that do not pose a risk to patient safety, the premises receives a conditional pass and may be restricted to specific procedures. A “pass” will be assigned when deficiencies have been corrected to the College’s satisfaction. The premises will be inspected again within five years.

If the premises fails the inspection, procedures specified by the regulation cannot be performed at the premises until deficiencies have been corrected to the College’s satisfaction and it has passed a subsequent inspection or passed with conditions. The premises will be inspected again within five years.

Whose job is it to ensure that premises have been informed of regulations and that staff have been trained properly?

The Medical Director of the premises is responsible for ensuring that the staff is properly qualified and trained and follow the expected standards of practice. The College assesses whether the staff is properly qualified and that training and/or certification is current as part of the inspection process.

If, after an inspection, physicians are restricted from performing procedures at their premises, can they perform these procedures elsewhere?

When a premises has failed an inspection, physicians affiliated with the premises are directed to stop performing specified procedures at the premises until it passes a subsequent inspection. Those physicians are permitted to perform the procedures in another setting if it is a safe environment for patients and they are qualified to do so. For example, if a physician has hospital privileges, he or she could perform the procedures there.

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