

BC Colposcopy Program: Roles, Clinics and Principles

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1. The Provincial Colposcopy Program was established to act in a complementary fashion to the Cervical Cancer Screening Program (CCSP) BC.
2. Specifically, the Provincial Colposcopy program is available primarily to evaluate and assess women with a positive cervical cancer screening test.
3. The organization and principles for the establishment of the colposcopy service were fashioned after direct consultation and agreement with the Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the BC Medical Association and representatives of the Provincial Cervical Screening Program and the Cancer Agency of British Columbia (1973-1974).
4. The colposcopy service is to provide timely and appropriate access for all women in all areas of the province.
5. The Colposcopy Clinics Programs is to be established in such a way as to provide a quality clinical service, with a continuous quality improvement and assessment feature for each clinic.
6. Colposcopy and related procedures would be performed only by individuals who hold recognized certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology.
7. All individuals involved in the Provincial Colposcopy Program would have their basic training provided and or vetted by the BC Colposcopy Program. Individuals involved in the program would have the opportunity to return for any additional training by mutual agreement between the program leadership and the individual.

8. Basic principles established from the outset are:
 - a. Patients are referred to the CLINIC, not the individual performing colposcopy. This is to avoid disrupting patterns of referral and practice within communities.
 - b. The official colposcopy clinics are to be hospital based, staffed with community based specialists in gynecology and obstetrics.
 - c. The BC Cancer Agency will provide a quality control program with an annual assessment of all individuals providing this service. Individuals whose performance is outside of program standards will be encouraged to return for additional training.

9. All individuals participating in the Provincial Colposcopy Program have a direct obligation to adhere to the above principles and further the objectives of the colposcopy service.

10. Patients attending the clinic, who may require additional investigation or treatment, are generally first referred back to the patient's physician for further discussion of their findings and the rationale for the recommended action. It is the responsibility and right of the primary care/referring physician to determine with the patient whether or not they wish the patient referred back to the clinic for further specific treatment or further investigation. It is recognized that in some jurisdictions the colposcopy clinic will provide total care of the patients upon referral.