

<b>Policy Title:</b> Primary Health Care Provider	
<b>Section:</b> Eligibility	<b>Reference No.</b> SB 030
<b>Effective:</b> July 1991	<b>Revision:</b> November 2017

## 1. SCOPE

All Breast Screening Centre Staff  
Client Services Centre Staff

## 2. POLICY

All women who wish to attend the BC Cancer Breast Screening program must provide the name of a licensed health care provider in B.C. to whom the mammography report can be sent.

A “licensed health care provider” is a physician, naturopath, nurse practitioner, or an approved medical clinic\* and is a member in good standing of the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Association of Naturopathic Physicians of BC, or the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia.

The rationale is that screening radiologists and staff are neither in a position to perform breast physical examination nor to follow-up on diagnostic work-up procedures that may be recommended as the result of screening. The responsibility for diagnostic follow-up remains with the woman’s primary health care provider.

*\*Approved medical clinics are clinics that have signed an agreement specifying that reports addressed to the clinic will be followed up by a physician. This list is maintained by the Client Services Centre.*

## 3. PROCEDURE

1. Licensed practitioners are listed on the Breast Screening Application database, in the Medical Doctor Look-up screen.
2. If a woman cannot provide the name of a licensed health care provider (physician, naturopath or nurse practitioner) to whom the mammography report can be sent, then inform her that she is not eligible for the program, and explain the rationale of this policy (if required).

3. Direct any woman desiring a licensed medical practitioner to contact the **Registrar's Office at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC at 604-733-7758, toll free throughout BC at 1-800-461-3008**, or email through website: [www.cpsbc.ca](http://www.cpsbc.ca) . The Registrar's Office will provide a list of physicians in any area who have indicated they are accepting new patients.
4. Occasionally, a client may be a physician herself and has requested to be the recipient of the report. The program encourages all women to have a family physician, but will accept that both the screenee's and the physician's letter can be sent to the screenee in this circumstance.
5. Problems of eligibility arising as a result of a woman not having a primary health care provider may be directed to the Client Services Manager.

#### **4. RELATED POLICIES**

#### **5. RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

Screening Operations Director