

Patient Identification in Medical Imaging

Purpose

This standard ensures that medical imaging patients are appropriately identified and correctly matched to the procedure intended for them prior to the provision of any care, service, imaging, procedure, therapy or treatment in accordance with best practice and patient safety.

Site Applicability

This standard is applicable to all Medical Imaging (MI) departments within Fraser Health (FH), Providence Health Care (PHC), Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

Practice Level

Profession:	Responsibilities:
All Medical Imaging staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authenticate and confirm the patient using 2 unique client identifiers as per health authority policy Confirm the correct medical imaging exam or procedure Reconcile any discrepancies in identification prior to commencing the exam or procedure

Need to Know

It is a mandatory standard of the [Diagnostic Accreditation Program](#) (DPS2.0) to have patient identification confirmed prior to a patient's examination or procedure by the individual(s) performing the examination or procedure.

Procedure

- Prior to commencing any medical imaging exam, the person performing the exam must correctly identify the patient by asking the patient, substitute decision maker or translator to **"state"**¹ not confirm:
 - The patient's first and last name
 - Date of birth
- After verifying the patient identification, confirm with the patient, substitute decision maker or translator that the requested procedure is correct by reviewing the:
 - Exam to be performed
 - Site and side of exam (if applicable) and
 - Reason or history for the requested exam
- The patient's responses to identification and procedure requested must be matched against the information on the original request/requisition.

¹ **"State"** means asking the patient to state their name, not agree with a name you are asking them. This will prevent miscommunication and incorrect patient imaging. Patients who are hard of hearing, anxious or distracted by illness or other disabilities may respond "yes" to a name that is not theirs

4. Additional considerations:

- a) All Inpatients, Emergency patients, Unresponsive patients and Outpatients with Identification (ID) bands:
The name and date of birth **stated** by the patient must be verified against the patient's identification band and other designated forms.

In those instances when the ID band is missing, before beginning the exam, notify the patient's attending nurse to come to the MI department to confirm patient identity and provide an ID band for the patient.
- b) Unresponsive patients or patients who are unable to state their name and date of birth:
The identification band worn by the patient must be matched to the correct MI procedure before any procedure is performed.
- c) Patients Transported from Care Homes/Other Facilities
All patients arriving from care homes/other facilities must arrive with proper identification. If the patient is unable to communicate their identity then a person accompanying the patient or transferring facility staff member must accompany the patient for verification of identification.

Related Documents

Related Policies

- [Authentication of Clients](#)
- [Patient, Client and Resident Identification](#)
- [Patient Identification Armbanding and Documentation](#)

Guidelines/Procedures/Forms

- [Patient Identification Poster](#)
- [Universal Protocol \(Time-Out\) for Invasive Medical Imaging Procedures](#)

References

College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC. Diagnostic Accreditation Program Standards. Retrieved from:
<https://www.cpsbc.ca/accredited-facilities/dap/accreditation-standards-DI>

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	2.0	22-FEB-2024	Move to SHOP template Policy to Standard Addition of Practice level table Removal of process for timeout for invasive procedures	Elizabeth Jongedijk, Director, Professional Practice, Quality & Safety
	3.0	27-FEB-2024	Addition of statement pertaining to unresponsive patients or patients who are unable to verify identification	Elizabeth Jongedijk, Director, Professional Practice, Quality & Safety