



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

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Date: March 10, 2017

Administrative Circular: 2017: 04

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –
Chapter 5: Sexually Transmitted Infections -
Section 1: Decision Support Tool: Pelvic Examination; Core Nursing Practice
Competencies for Pelvic Examination

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual - Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Section 1.

(1) PHSA REGISTERED NURSING DECISION SUPPORT TOOL: PELVIC EXAM – Updated – Discard and Replace the Entire 2012 DST.

Overview of changes:

- **Page 1: Pelvic Examination** - revised introduction. *Resources and Related Standards* are now in Appendix C. College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC) scope of practice including limits on practice are stated up front and includes requirements for consultation/referral for:
 - clients less than 14 years of age and/or,
 - pregnant clients and/or,
 - clients who have undergone upper instrumentation (e.g. gynecological procedure such as therapeutic abortion) in the previous two weeks.
- **Page 1: Indications for Pelvic Examination** – revised.
 - removed “to provide health teaching.” This is now included under *Intended Outcomes* and *Client Education*.
 - removed “Consent”. This is now included under *Assessment*.
- **Page 1: Intended Outcomes** – moved- now included on page 1.
- **Page 1: Definitions** - removed from page 1 and included in *Appendix B: Definitions*.

- **Page 2: *Decision Making Criteria*** – revised. Care for specific populations has been removed. Health equity, trauma informed, and client-centered practice is now included with reference to *Appendix C: Additional Resources (new)*. *Appendix C* offers current resources for RNs related to health inequities, trauma informed practice and cultural competence and safety.
- **Page 2: *Decision Making Criteria*** – updated reference: BC Cancer Agency 2016 cervical cancer screening recommendations (*Screening for Cancer of the Cervix: An Office Manual for Health Care Providers*).
- **Page 3: *Decision Making Criteria*** – revised. Updated recommendations for STI screening in relation to pelvic exam. Included recommendation for less invasive STI screening techniques.
- **Pages 3 – 6: *Assessment*** – revised. New subsections include:
 - *Health History*. Includes sexual, reproductive and medical, symptoms inquiry (new) and obtaining consent (new).
 - *Physical Assessment*. Includes external/speculum/ bimanual components of the exam. Reference to *Appendix A: Decision Algorithm for Pelvic Examination (new)*.
- **Page 6: *Diagnostic or Screening Tests*** – revised to include:
 - *Diagnostic or Screening Tests* which replaces *Interventions*.
 - *Unintended Outcomes* – removed.
- **Page 6: *Client Education*** – included as a separate section. Previously located under *Assessment*.
- **Page 6: *Indications for Consultation and/or Referral*** – revised. Now includes referral for clients who are pregnant and/or post upper instrumentation within the previous 2 weeks.
- **Page 8: *Appendix A: Decision Algorithm for Pelvic Examination*** – new. Offers guidance for when full or partial pelvic exam is appropriate; and when pelvic exam is not necessary. Emphasis placed on client consent and client-led decision making.

- **Page 9: Appendix B: Definitions** – revised.
 - Term “bio female” changed to “assigned female at birth”
 - Term “bio male” changed to “assigned male at birth”
 - Term “pelvic exam” changed to “full pelvic exam”
 - Inclusion of the following definitions:
 - cisgender
 - client-centered care
 - intimate partner violence
 - sexual contact
 - transgender
 - trauma informed practice/service
 - Removed the following definitions:
 - pap test
 - pelvic inflammatory disease
 - STI

- **Page 12: Appendix C: Additional Resources** – new.

Specific resources to support trauma informed, culturally safe and equity focused practice. Inclusion criteria: sources are primarily BC focused, then national. Many resources relate to priority populations identified through the equity focused review.

- **Page 16: Appendix D: Resources and Related Standards** – updated.

This information was previously stated on page 1 of the 2012 DST and has been updated and moved into an appendix.

- **Page 17: References** – updated.

(2) PHSA CORE NURSING PRACTICE COMPETENCIES FOR PELVIC EXAMINATION – Updated – Discard and replace the November 2011 version.

Overview of changes:

- **KNOWLEDGE of** - revised. Included:
 - Client-centered care
 - Trauma-informed care

- **JUDGMENT determining** – updated. Included current reference to BC Cancer Agency Cervical Screening Guideline (2016).

Please remove the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section I – STI:

- *PHSA Registered Nurse Decision Support Tool: Pelvic Exam* – October 2012, pages 1-10.
- *PHSA Core Nursing Practice Competencies for Pelvic Exam* – November 2011.

Please insert the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section I – STI:

- *PHSA Registered Nurse Decision Support Tool: Pelvic Exam* – March 2017, pages 1-22.
- *PHSA Core Nursing Practice Competencies for Pelvic Exam* – March 2017.

If you have any questions regarding these practice changes, please contact Cheryl Prescott, Senior Practice Leader, Clinical Prevention Services at 604-707-5651 cheryl.prescott@bccdc.ca or Lauren Collins, Clinic Coordinator Resource Nurse, Clinical Prevention Services at 604-707-2400 ex. 27-3043 lauren.collins@bccdc.ca.

Please note a continued nurse education (CNE) webcast is scheduled for **Tuesday April 25, 2017 from 10-11am**. Participants will have the opportunity to view the session live and pose questions or view the recording at a later date. To view this presentation on or after April 25th click here: <http://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/b3a8b2ad87514c6dba03c6a0e724346a1d>

Sincerely,



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BC Centre for Disease Control

cc: Dr. Mark Tyndall
Executive Medical Director
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