

SCIENTIFIC ACCEPTABILITY - PROCEDURE APPROVAL

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A physician will recommend only those diagnostic procedures that are believed necessary to assist in the care of the patient, and therapy that is believed necessary for the well being of the patient. The physician will recognize a responsibility in advising the patient of the findings and recommendations, and will exchange such information with the patient as it is necessary for the patient to reach a decision.
- A physician will first communicate to colleagues, through recognized scientific channels, the results of any medical research, in order that those colleagues may establish an opinion of its merits before they are presented to the public.
- A physician will recognize a responsibility to give the generally held opinions of the profession when interpreting scientific knowledge to the public; when presenting an opinion which is contrary to the generally held opinion of the profession, the physician will so indicate and will avoid any attempt to enhance his/her own personal professional reputation.
- A physician will avoid advocacy of any product when identified as a member of the medical profession.
- A physician will avoid the use of secret remedies.

INSURED SERVICES - THE CONCEPT OF NECESSITY

"Necessary services" are generally regarded as insurable services within the terms of provincial legislation. The use of the word "necessary" suggests that some arbitrary cutoff is being applied with respect to which procedures or therapies may be insured and which are not.

Non insured services may also be considered valid if they are scientifically acceptable and have appropriate clinical indication.

THE CONCEPT OF "SCIENTIFIC ACCEPTABILITY"

This term means that a particular procedure or therapy can be supported as effective in the peer reviewed literature. It must be reliable, reproducible, and demonstrate that the benefits outweigh the risk.

Procedures or therapies which do not meet this description are considered "experimental" or "developmental".

Procedures or therapies which are proven to be unsafe, or which are unreliable, non-reproducible are referred to as "not scientifically acceptable".

• Experimental Procedures and Therapies

A procedure remains experimental until it has been established as reliable and reproducible.

Procedures or therapies not yet "scientifically acceptable" may be performed by a physician only as part of "an approved research project". Patients participating in such a process must provide a fully informed consent regarding the experimental nature of the process. No fees can be assessed to the patient, nor can the patient be asked to contribute to research costs.

Approved research project is any project which has been approved by a committee established by a Canadian University or Medical Regulatory Authority in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Research Involving Humans (Final Report of the TriCouncil Working Group - Medical Research Council (MRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), 1997). This shall apply to all requests for approval by an ethics review board.

• Developmental Procedures

With respect to safety issues, a procedure or therapy remains developmental until associated risk is significantly reduced below the adverse effect of the condition being managed.

When a procedure or therapy is considered developmental, then the physician may perform it, but only within the conditions recognized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The patient must be provided with a fully informed consent regarding the "developmental status". A fee may be charged, as recommended by the Manitoba Medical Association, however items with this status are not acceptable as insurable services.

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**A statement is a formal position of the College with
which members shall comply.**