



College of
Chiropractors
of Ontario

Safety and the Practice Environment

Approved by Council: 2002

Revised and Updated: May 21, 2026

Introduction

Registrants are responsible for ensuring their practice site(s) are properly equipped, well-maintained, and have procedures in place to protect the health and safety of patients and staff.

This Standard should be read together with other applicable standards and guidelines that address specific safety issues, such as infection prevention and control, orthotics manufacturing, office medical emergencies, inhalation and sedation, and laser use.

Requirements

1. Legal Compliance

Practice sites must comply with all current provincial and municipal regulations including, among others:

- [**Occupational Health and Safety Act \(OHSA\)**](#)
 - Ensures a safe and healthy work environment.
 - Requires employers to take reasonable precautions to protect workers, provide training, and maintain safety equipment.
 - Applies to all workplaces, including healthcare settings.
- [**Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act \(HARP\)**](#)
 - Regulates the use of x-ray equipment in healthcare facilities.
 - Requires approval for installation, registration of equipment, and adherence to safety standards.
 - Mandates shielding, inspections, and designation of a Radiation Protection Officer.

2. Equipment Safety

- All potentially hazardous equipment used for examination and treatment must be serviced and inspected by a qualified technician to ensure safety, efficacy, and accuracy (where applicable through calibration).
- Servicing must be conducted in accordance with:
 - Manufacturer specifications,
 - Applicable government guidelines, or at a minimum, every five years.

3. Service Records

- Keep a written record for every piece of equipment that could be hazardous.
- Records must show all maintenance and servicing done on any equipment used to examine, treat or provide care to patients.

4. Address Deficiencies

- Equipment deficiencies or unsafe conditions must be addressed promptly.
- Employers are required to correct hazards immediately to protect workers from injury or illness.

5. Policies and Manuals

- All policy documents, procedures and equipment manuals must be kept in the office and must be easily accessible.

6. CPR Certification

- Registrants must maintain **Basic Life Support (BLS)** certification (CPR Level HCP – CPR level for health care providers) as a minimum. BLS certification must be renewed every three years.
- Support staff should be encouraged to obtain certification.

7. Hazardous Materials

- Store hazardous material¹ in a safe and controlled area. Clearly label materials and include current handling instructions.
- Review and initial instructions annually and keep them in the office manual.
- Follow Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) guidelines.

8. Sharps Policy

- A written "sharps" policy and procedures must be kept in the office manual.

9. Pharmaceutical and Clinical Supplies

- Inspect supplies for expiry dates and dispose of them appropriately.

¹ "hazardous material" means a biological or chemical agent named or described in the regulations as a hazardous material. *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, subsection 1(1)