

Background

The goal of this document is to establish provincial standards to facilitate the right imaging for the right trauma patient at the right time. The optimal management of major trauma requires that clinicians, radiologists, and other medical and technical personnel work seamlessly together to ensure timely and accurate diagnosis and treatment. This includes minimizing unnecessary imaging examinations and establishing consistent reporting procedures to avoid critical delays and to ensure that healthcare resources are used both effectively and efficiently.

This document is developed by and for medical imagers/imaging departments and trauma clinicians to enhance collaboration and communication. The interdisciplinary working group has outlined shared goals, mutual expectations, and comprehensive decision-making protocols to help ensure patient safety, optimal outcomes, and operational efficiency.

We define major trauma as serious injury due to externally applied forces that may result in death or serious disability. This document provides guidelines and recommendations for the imaging of known and suspected blunt and penetrating injury in adult patients (18 years or older) in order to establish standards of care and help ensure the delivery of optimal care. The content of this document reflects the consensus opinion based on current evidence and best practice of radiologists and specialist consultants from British Columbia's five regional health authorities. The creation of these guidelines was enabled by leadership from the Medical Imaging Advisory Council of British Columbia in collaboration with Trauma Services B.C. Funding for this work was awarded by the Specialty Services Committee of the Doctors of B.C. as part of its support for the project: Streamlined Specialized Care Strategies for Complex Major Trauma in B.C.

Participating stakeholders included:

- Medical Imaging
 - Medical Imaging Advisory Council of British Columbia
 - BC Radiological Society
 - Vancouver Coastal Health Authority: Dr. Paddy McLaughlin, Dr. Luck Louis
 - Fraser Health Authority: Dr. Kenneth Wong
 - Vancouver Island Health Authority: Dr. Alan Andrews
 - Northern Health Authority: Dr. Karen Seland
 - Interior Health Authority: Dr. Brooke Cairns
- Emergency Services
 - Emergency Services Advisory Council of British Columbia
 - BC Trauma Services: Dr. David Evans
 - Fraser Health Authority: Dr. Joe Haegert
 - Interior Health Authority: Dr. Ravi Sunder, Dr. Mike Ertel
 - Vancouver Coast Health Authority: Dr. Hazel Park

This document is the first of its kind in British Columbia. It is a living document to be adapted as best practices change and updated content becomes available. It is intended that these guidelines be jointly maintained by MIAC and TSBC and that they reside with the Radiology Specialty Advisory Group of the TSBC's Provincial Specialty Trauma Advisory Network.