Newsletter, Summer 2022, Facilities

In-person and Virtual Inspections

After a long delay caused by Covid-19 and a shortage of facility Inspectors, the Facilities department is gearing up to re-start in-person facility inspections. Our priority is follow-up inspections of the more than 70 facilities that opened or relocated during the pandemic. These received virtual inspections and were granted Provisional Approval to operate. They now require an in-person inspection as per the PFAC Unified Policy on Virtual Inspection during the Covid-19 Pandemic before they can receive Full Accreditation. As part of the follow-up to virtual inspections, the PFAC will review if virtual inspections are a useful tool moving forward to expedite inspection and Provisional Approval to Operate of a new or relocated facility. In the past, these would have to wait until an inspector could physically visit the new facility.

As well, we continue to perform Virtual Inspection on facilities due for re-accreditation who are interested in undergoing the virtual inspection process. As per the Unified Policy, facilities seeking re-accreditation that undergo a virtual inspection and satisfy PFAC's requirements will be re-accredited without requiring an in-person inspection. If your facility was due in 2020 or 2021 for reaccreditation (last inspected in 2015 or 2016) and you are interested in a virtual inspection, please contact the office at facilities@cvbc.ca.

Alternatively, if an inspector is scheduled to be in your area for another inspection and you have not started the virtual process, we may request you be available for them to visit your facility as well for an inspection for re-accreditation.

2022 Self-Assessments

The other major project for the CVBC facilities team is starting the integration of our department with the central database that was launched by the CVBC in 2019. We will be creating an online self-assessment that should be easier to navigate. This year we are targeting to have the first pages that you normally submit to the office available online; the balance of the Self-Assessment should be completed with the current offline document and retained by the facility. Long term this project should make it easier for the office and a Designated Registrant to manage changes to the scope of practice of the facility.

Renovations and SOP Changes

Speaking of scope of practice, a reminder that changes to scope of practice or significant renovations to a facility must be reported to the CVBC office. Significant scope changes are to be approved by the Practice Facility Accreditation Committee, and in some cases, they require an inspection. If you are not sure, please check with the office team who can provide guidance on appropriate steps.