



## GUIDE TO ELECTRICAL PATIENT CARE AREAS

### **IMPORTANT; PLEASE READ...**

#### **DEFINITION**

Electrical patient care areas are areas where permanently-connected or cord-connected electrical medical equipment is used for the purpose of intentional contact at a patient's skin surface or internally during the patient's treatment, diagnostics, therapy, monitoring or care.

The Electrical Patient Care Areas Declaration form identifying electrical patient care areas, or the absence thereof, must be submitted for all health care facilities.

If the facility **DOES NOT CONTAIN** any areas meeting the above Definition, please check Box A on the Electrical Patient Care Areas Declaration. Where the facility **DOES CONTAIN** areas meeting the above Definition, read the information below and check either Box B or C on the Declaration, as applicable.

Standard CAN/CSA-Z32 for electrical safety in health care facilities identifies medical facilities such as dental clinics, chiropractors' offices, physicians' offices, optometrists' offices, physiotherapists' offices, and others, in addition to traditional hospital facilities, as potentially having electrical patient care areas.

The level of patient care – basic, intermediate or critical – is determined based on the frequency or type of contact with electrical medical equipment:

Basic Care Area – a patient care area where body contact between a patient and medical electrical equipment is neither frequent nor usual.

Intermediate Care Area – a patient care area in which body contact between a patient and medical electrical equipment is frequent or normal.

Critical Care Area – a patient care area that is an anaesthetizing location, or in which cardiac contact between a patient and medical electrical equipment is frequent or normal.

According to the CAN/CSA-Z32 Standard, the responsibility for defining a facility's electrical patient care areas lies with the facility administrator. The administrator is defined as the person responsible for operating the health care facility, or his/her designee.

#### **Required documentation:**

1. For all health care facilities, the facility administrator must complete The City of Winnipeg Electrical Patient Care Areas Declaration.
2. Where an engineer responsible for the electrical design is required or has otherwise been retained,
  - a. It is assumed that the engineer has discussed the Declaration with the facility administrator and advised as to its accurate completion, and
  - b. The engineer must provide a detail for the installation of patient care wiring methods for the level(s) of patient care area(s) applicable to the project.
3. In the absence of an engineer, the electrical contractor must provide the detail noted in 2.b. above.