



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®  
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

*Les experts en surveillance aquatique*

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## Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Aquatic Facility Standard

### Medical Conditions Standard

#### Standard

Every owner or operator shall have signage advising individuals that bathers with a serious medical condition should consult with a doctor prior to use, and be accompanied by a person who maintains visual contact with the bather.

#### Definitions

**Serious medical condition:** a condition, which may put the bather at risk in a swimming facility (e.g. seizures, heart conditions, etc.).

**Bather:** a person whose intent is to use the swimming facility.

#### Rationale

Bathers with serious medical conditions can submerge quickly and are at a higher risk of drowning.

Signage informs individuals that bathers with a serious medical condition are at risk when participating in an aquatic setting.

To enhance their supervision, individuals knowledgeable of their condition should accompany these bathers and alert lifeguards should an emergency occur. They will also be able to advise the lifeguard of the bather's condition and expedite emergency care.

#### Implementation

Owners and operators should post signage adjacent to the aquatic facility entranceway (e.g. entranceway, in changerooms before the shower area, control desk, etc).

The accompanying individual may be on the deck or in the water.

## References

- ILS Position Statement: Seizure Disorders in Lifesaving and Lifeguarding 2008, Dr. S. Beerman
- Guide to Ontario Pool Regulation, 2016
- Ontario Coroner's Inquest Report – Haas Inquest, Bronte Creek July 1993 – requires notice be placed in a prominent location
- Avis de santé publique sur la sécurité dans les piscines résidentielles et publiques au Québec 2006

## Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 18 September 2017.

## Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards are developed using Coroners' recommendations, the latest evidence-based research, and reflect the aquatic industry's best practices at the time the publication was approved or revised.

The purpose of these standards is to encourage swimming pool, waterpark and waterfront owners, managers, operators and regulators to adopt these standards in order to prevent drownings in aquatic environments.

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal legislation or regulations, but they are considered the standard to which aquatic facility operators should work towards in order to enhance safety within their operations and to prevent drowning and aquatic-related injury.