

Conflict of Interest

The **Standards of Practice** of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (“the College”) are the minimum standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct expected of all regulated members registered in Alberta. Standards of Practice are enforceable under the *Health Professions Act* and will be referenced in the management of complaints and in discipline hearings. The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta also provides **Advice to the Profession** to support the implementation of the Standards of Practice.

- (1) A regulated member **must** resolve any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in the best interest of the patient.
- (2) A regulated member **must** make full, frank and timely disclosure of any conflict of interest, and comply with clause (1) regardless of whether the regulated member has obtained consent to remain in the conflict of interest.
- (3) A regulated member **must not**:
 - (a) seek or accept any benefit for a referral, service or product provided by another regulated professional to a patient, other than for services provided by a partner, associate, employee or locum of the regulated member;
 - (b) offer an inducement to another regulated professional conditional on providing a referral, service or product to a patient, whether or not such referral, service or product is medically appropriate; or
 - (c) encourage another person to offer or accept an inducement conditional on providing a referral, service or product to a patient, whether or not such referral, service or product is medically appropriate.
- (4) A regulated member **must not** refer a patient to any facility or healthcare business separate and apart from the regulated member’s medical practice in which the regulated member has a direct or indirect financial interest unless the regulated member has the prior approval of the Registrar, and is able to substantiate compliance with the following on request:
 - (a) any interest or benefit the regulated member receives is directly attributable to the regulated member’s proportionate financial contribution or effort provided to that facility;
 - (b) there are no terms or conditions that relate any benefit to the regulated member to past or expected volume of patient referrals or other business from the regulated member to the facility; and
 - (c) there are no terms or conditions that require the regulated member to make referrals to the facility or otherwise generate business for the facility.

Terms used in the Standards of Practice:

- *Physician* means any person who is registered or who is required to be registered as a member of this College. The College regulates physicians, surgeons and osteopaths.
- *Must* refers to a mandatory requirement.
- *May* means that the physician may exercise reasonable discretion.
- *Patient* includes, where applicable, the patient’s legal guardian or substitute decision maker.