Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta met in Edmonton on May 28 & 29, 2015 to discuss College activities and provide direction on policy matters that affect physicians and the public. Highlights of the meeting included:

Registrar’s report

- **Registrar Team Changes** - Dr. Michael Caffaro joined the registrar team on April 8. Council appointed him as Complaints Director effective July 1, 2015. Dr. Owen Heisler transitions to the Accreditation and Operations (IT, HR and Finance) portfolios, and Dr. Karen Mazurek moves to the Continuing Competence program. Dr. Ken Gardener will retire from the College on June 30, 2015.
- **Continuing Competence Program** – The College has hired Dr. Monica Wickland-Weller (full time), Dr. Mark Godel (one day a week), Dr. Nigel Ashworth (one day a week) and Dr. Ernie Schuster (three days a week) as Senior Medical Advisors to augment our work in PAR and Physician Prescribing Practices and in implementing standards to ensure members are complying with the CPSA standards of practice. The team is also working with provincial partners to develop a risk assessment tool that will help us identify those practices where we should consider a targeted focus.
- **Prescribing Practices Forum** – Drs. Susan Ulans and Trevor Themain participated in a national forum hosted by Health Canada and the National Pain Center at McMaster University to secure agreement on concrete actions to improve prescribing practices in Canada.

More reports from the registrar are available in the [Council Meeting Dossier (page 4)](#).

**Sponsorship of Physicians for the Provisional Register-Conditional Practice:**

Since January 2010, the number of applicants sponsored by Alberta Health Services (AHS) has been relatively steady, consisting primarily of rural family physicians and specialists to areas of identified need in both rural and urban settings. In contrast, there has been a rapid and steady increase in non-AHS sponsors recruiting both family physicians and specialists into office practice—primarily in Edmonton and Calgary.

Alberta is the only province in Canada with this type of sponsorship model.

**Decision:** As of May 29, 2015, physicians who qualify only for the Provisional Register – Conditional Practice must be sponsored by Alberta Health Services. All non-AHS sponsorships submitted after May 29, 2015 will not be accepted.

**CPSA Standards of Practice:**

Council and staff work together to review and update **CPSA Standards of Practice** on a continuous cycle. CPSA standards of practice represent the minimum standards of professional behavior and good medical practice Alberta physicians are expected to meet.

- **Request for decision:** *Patient Records Retention, Patient Records Content & Transmitting Prescriptions*
Dr. Owen Heisler and Ms. Sarah Thomas reviewed Council feedback on the *Patient Records* standard and *Faxing Prescriptions* standard to confirm they captured and interpreted information correctly. Council agreed to putting these forward for consultation.

- **Request for Resolution: Continuity of Care; Episodic Care; Establishing the Physician-Patient Relationship**

  Council reviewed and approved revised standards on *Continuity of Care, Episodic Care, and Establishing the Physician-Patient Relationship*. The standards include Council and professional feedback provided during council meetings and the consultation process.