

## **CPSA's Response to the Globe and Mail's Abortion Pill Article**

The Globe and Mail article on July 15, 2019 regarding the abortion pill (Mifegymiso) entitled *Alberta medical regulator wants College of Family Physicians of Canada to help improve abortion pill access* incorrectly suggested that the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) holds the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) responsible for improving access to the abortion pill. CPSA and CFPC have a positive relationship based on mutual respect; we are disappointed to see the Globe and Mail article inaccurately positioned CPSA against the CFPC. In light of this misinformation, CPSA would like to take this opportunity to clarify our stance on the abortion pill and our expectations of physicians practicing in Alberta.

CPSA expects all physicians in our province to provide ethical, non-judgmental treatment to all patients, no matter what their medical concern is. That may include women seeking an abortion, patients seeking medical assistance in dying or the treatment of chronic pain.

If a physician is unwilling to provide care for ethical reasons, as sometimes occurs with MAID or abortions, this does not remove a physician's responsibility to ensure the patient has access to the care they require. The physician must, in a timely fashion, refer their patient to another physician who can provide care. This is outlined in CPSA's standard of practice on [Conscientious Objection](#).

Physicians are expected to seek education when new forms of care or medication is available. Continuous professional development is required by all physicians in Alberta.

Collectively, health care partners such as medical regulatory bodies, provincial and territorial medical associations, medical schools, the Royal College and the College of Family Physicians of Canada work together to support advancements and change in the provision of care to enhance improved, cost-effective treatments that meet the needs of patients. The CPSA seeks to be a positive, collaborative partner.