

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Responding to Third Party Requests

Under Review: No

Issued By: Council: January 1, 2010

The *Standards of Practice* of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (“CPSA”) 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. CPSA also provides *Advice to the Profession* to support the implementation of the Standards of Practice.

1. A regulated member **must** provide details of his/her findings, assessment, advice and treatment given to a patient when requested by the patient or an authorized agent or required to do so by law.
2. When responding to requests in clause (1) for information about a patient, a regulated member **must** respond to the authorized request as soon as possible, generally within thirty (30) days of receiving the request, in one of the following ways:
 - a. providing the information requested;
 - b. acknowledging the request and giving an estimated date for providing the information requested; or
 - c. explaining why all or part of the information will not be provided.
3. Notwithstanding clause (1), a regulated member is **not** obligated to:
 - a. provide a report containing a medical-legal opinion;
 - b. provide an expert opinion; or
 - c. become an expert witness in a legal proceeding.
4. Notwithstanding clause (1), if the request is made under a contractual agreement, regulated member **must** comply with the specifics of that agreement.

Terms used in the Standards of Practice:

- “Regulated member” 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.

RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

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COMPANION RESOURCES

- [Advice to the Profession: Legislated Reporting and Release of Medical Information](#)

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