

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Supervision of Restricted Activities

Under Review: No

Issued By: Council: January 1, 2010

Reissued by Council: April 1, 2017

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.

This standard applies to supervision of restricted activities as defined in section 2 of Schedule 7.1 of the *Government Organization Act*. It does not imply any expectation or requirement for a regulated member of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta to supervise other regulated healthcare professionals performing restricted activities within their scope of practice, training and authorization by their regulatory college.

1. A regulated member **may** consent to supervising a person performing a restricted activity if the person is:
 - a. another regulated healthcare professional;
 - b. a clinical trainee undergoing training leading to certification in a regulated health profession and the regulated member has taken reasonable steps to confirm that the supervised person is a clinical trainee; or
 - c. an unregulated healthcare provider.
2. A regulated member who supervises a person performing a restricted activity **must**:
 - a. be personally:
 - i. competent to perform the restricted activity;
 - ii. authorized to perform the restricted activity without supervision;

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.

- iii. satisfied with the knowledge, skill and judgment of the supervised person performing the restricted activity; and
 - iv. [responsible](#) for the restricted activity performed by the supervised person;
 - b. ensure it is safe and appropriate for the supervised person to perform the restricted activity on the particular patient;
 - c. obtain the patient's [informed consent](#) for the restricted activity to be performed under supervision, unless consent is not possible because of emergency;
 - d. provide a level of supervision commensurate with the skills and abilities of the person performing the restricted activity and the risk of harm to the patient;
 - e. [remain readily available](#) for consultation during the performance of the restricted activity and for an appropriate follow-up period;
 - f. have a quality assurance process in place to ensure the restricted activity is performed safely;
 - g. ensure the person performing the restricted activity is clearly identified in the [patient's record](#); and
 - h. ensure the equipment and resources used to perform the restricted activity are safe and appropriate.
3. A regulated member who supervises an unregulated healthcare provider performing a restricted activity **must** ensure:
 - a. the restricted activity is performed only under a direct order from a physician in the context of an [established physician-patient relationship](#);
 - b. there is minimal additional risk to the patient due to the unregulated healthcare provider performing the restricted activity; and

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- c. the restricted activity is performed according to an established protocol and does not require medical knowledge or expertise.
4. A regulated member **must not** supervise a person performing a restricted activity if that person:
- a. would be in violation of section 46 of the [Health Professions Act](#) regarding Mandatory Registration; or
 - b. is registered as a regulated health professional in Alberta, but is not authorized or permitted by their profession's regulatory college to perform that restricted activity.

RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- [Continuity of Care](#)
- [Establishing the Physician-Patient Relationship](#)
- [Informed Consent](#)
- [Patient Record Content](#)
- [Responsibility for a Medical Practice](#)

COMPANION RESOURCES

- Advice to the Profession:
 - [Informed Consent for Adults](#)
 - [Informed Consent for Minors](#)
 - [Physicians as Custodians](#)
 - [Responsibility for a Medical Practice](#)
- [Government Organization Act](#)
- [Health Professions Act](#)
- [CMPA's The Most Responsible Physician](#)

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