

## STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

# Transfer of Care

Under Review: No

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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 transferring full or partial responsibility for a patient’s care to another healthcare provider(s) **must**:
  - a. communicate clearly with the accepting healthcare provider(s) and provide a timely, written summary that includes the following information:
    - i. identification of the roles and [responsibilities](#) of the regulated member and other healthcare providers involved in the patient’s ongoing care;
    - ii. pertinent clinical information, including outstanding test results and active consultations;
    - iii. treatment plans and recommendations for [follow-up care](#);
  - b. have a discussion with the patient to:
    - i. identify the roles and [responsibilities](#) of the regulated member and other healthcare providers involved in the patient’s ongoing care; and
    - ii. explain treatment plans and recommendations for [follow-up care](#).
2. A regulated member discharging a patient from a healthcare facility **must**:
  - a. complete a timely discharge summary consistent with the policies of the facility; and

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**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.

- b. provide relevant healthcare providers with pertinent clinical information, including, but not limited to:
  - i. discharge medications;
  - ii. outstanding investigations, including responsibility for requisitioning follow-up; and
  - iii. active consultations.

## **RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE**

- [Continuity of Care](#)
- [Episodic Care](#)
- [Referral Consultation](#)
- [Responsibility for a Medical Practice](#)

## **COMPANION RESOURCES**

- Advice to the Profession:
  - [Episodic Care](#)
  - [Referral Consultation](#)
  - [Responsibility for a Medical Practice](#)
- [CMPA's The Most Responsible Physician](#)

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