

## Background & History of Group Practice Review (GPR)

### Research & Evaluation

CPSA's Research & Evaluation Unit (REVU) focuses on evaluating existing competence programs and designing new ones. REVU liaises with CPSA staff and external experts to conduct ethical, relevant, timely and evidence-based medical research and regulation.

[Learn more about REVU.](#)

### Partner Consultation

The [Health Professions Act \(HPA\)](#) mandates that CPSA regularly review physician practice as part of our Continuing Competence Program. Previously, the main tool for the task was the Physician Achievement Review (PAR) program. Feedback indicated that a different process may be of more value and relevance to physicians.

In response, CPSA Council called for a pilot project to examine these tools and identify ways to improve the value of feedback for all physicians, with an element of group practice review and support.

Focusing on promoting excellence, the primary aim of this pilot project and subsequent program redesign was not to weed out physicians who are not meeting general competencies [CPSA's Standards of Practice](#), but rather to provide meaningful feedback to educate physicians, allow reflection and embrace new ideas and resources to help meet standards and provide excellent medical practice to their patients.

Data for GPR design was collected through physician surveys, physician focus groups and stakeholder consultations.

[Read the Practice Review Pilot Research Report.](#)

### Implementation

#### Results:

- Phase I Results (May 2017) – [Executive Summary](#) | [Full Report](#)

#### Details:

A limited implementation in fall 2016 provided the opportunity to gather feedback to refine the GPR process, tools and resources:

- Eight family medicine and general practitioner group practices were invited to take part.

- Each group practice participated in an onsite Standard of Practice Implementation (SOPI) review and follow-up meeting with a CPSA Physician Facilitator to discuss the results of the review, group practice quality indicators, resources and group data.
- Group quality indicators identified through consultation, such as participation in quality improvement initiatives and patient surveys, were incorporated throughout the different elements of the group review. Samples of formal contract and agreements, team agreements and norms were developed to help support clinics.
- Challenges with certain aspects of the standards of practice were also identified and support was provided to help clinics have Information Sharing Agreements and [Privacy Impact Assessments](#) in place.
- This limited implementation produced constructive research findings, but the sample size of only eight group practices was limited.