

Position Statement from the Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta

CPSA's Council is composed of practising physicians and public members. We know first hand the stress and uncertainty felt by physicians, and all Albertans, in these challenging economic times. We recognize that patient care and physician practice patterns are likely to be significantly impacted in ways that are not yet known. The importance of physician health and wellness cannot be overstated in times of instability. However, the mandate of CPSA remains clear: to ensure quality medical care, physician professionalism and patient safety. Council must continue to govern physicians in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.

CPSA has no role in setting professional fees, providing guidelines for professional fees or negotiating professional fees for physicians. With respect to recent physician funding changes, this matter rests strictly between the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Medical Association. Council cannot take sides in this dispute, but can provide guidance and support.

CPSA Council has confidence that Alberta physicians will continue to put patients first, regardless of any changes resulting from recent legislation. CPSA members are bound to follow the CMA [Code of Ethics and Professionalism](#). This code of ethics represents what physicians themselves feel is the expectation for the profession. It was developed to guide physicians when challenged by difficult situations. The CMA *Code of Ethics and Professionalism*, alongside CPSA's [Code of Conduct](#) and the relevant standards of practice, remain solid foundations for the profession and must continue to form the backbone of medical practice in Alberta.

CPSA's [Job Action](#) standard states that physicians cannot take job action that will put the immediate health of patients at significant risk. Physicians may, however, advocate on behalf of patients to promote patient health and wellbeing as long as any such action remains compliant with the standard and the CMA *Code of Ethics and Professionalism*.

Council has worked with CPSA staff to create an updated [Advice to the Profession](#) document on job action to help guide physicians during this challenging time. We are here to support you in continuing to meet the high standards expected of physicians while maintaining your professional autonomy.

We encourage physicians with any questions or concerns regarding any potential change in practice or practise pattern to contact CPSA for advice.