

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Consultation 016

March 11-May 10, 2019

Code of Ethics Reissued July 1, 2019

After a [two-year consultation](#), the [Canadian Medical Association](#) (CMA) published an updated [Code of Ethics and Professionalism](#) in 2018 (read more about CMA's consultation and amendment process [here](#)).

Per Section 133 of the *Health Professions Act*, CPSA is required to consult with our membership, the Minister of Health, and organizational partners before adopting a new code of ethics. Consultation ran March 11-May 10, and 57 regulated members provided feedback:

- 45% of respondents agreed with the proposed adoption of the updated *Code of Ethics*
- 20% of respondents voiced dislike of the new edition
- Despite clear messaging that changes to this document were not possible, 35% of respondents provided suggested edits; however, only 2 respondents explicitly suggested CPSA create its own code of ethics.
- The majority of questions or requests for clarification are addressed in current CPSA standards
- 8 respondents do not believe singling out Indigenous people is appropriate
- 6 respondents found the document too long in comparison to the 2004 version
- 2 respondents do not view the CMA as representative of Canadian physicians

While CPSA was unable to make edits to CMA's 2018 *Code of Ethics and Professionalism* based on feedback received during the consultation—unlike the other [Standards of Practice](#)—your input informed our recommendation to Council.

The recommendation to adopt the 2018 *Code* was based on the feedback of medical regulators across Canada provided to CMA through FMRAC and CMPA, which resulted in extensive conversations and significant edits to the original version. Additionally, the recommendation to adopt the 2018 *Code* was made in an effort to maintain consistency across the country for physicians who work in multiple provinces.

Many of the comments received questioning why various topics are not addressed in the 2018 *Code* (e.g., acceptable reasons to refuse a patient, referring patients to other physicians, etc.) highlighted areas of our standards to

examine for deficiencies or ambiguity. A code of ethics is not designed every issue a physician may encounter, but to set out baseline expectations that provincial laws and regulatory standards may put into force that define the expectations of the rules in order to protect the safety of patients.

REVIEW THE CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONALISM

The profession, stakeholders, other organizations and public members were invited to provide feedback from March 11 – May 10, 2019. Council considered non-nominal feedback when deciding upon adoption of the *Code of Ethics & Professionalism* at its May 2019 meeting.

All feedback is subject to CPSA's Privacy Statement. CPSA reviews all comments before publication to ensure there is no offensive language, personal attacks or unsubstantiated allegations.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Chantelle.Dick@cpsa.ab.ca.