

## Direction and Control of a Medical Practice<sup>1</sup>

The **Standards of Practice** of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (“the College”) 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. The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta also provides **Advice to the Profession** to support the implementation of the Standards of Practice.

- 1) A regulated member **must** maintain full direction and control of his/her medical practice in any setting outside of a hospital or facility operated by government or a provincial health authority, including but not limited to:
  - (a) patient care provided, including the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, advice given and referral of the patient;
  - (b) compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and standards governing the practice of medicine;
  - (c) all regulated and non-regulated staff participating in the practice, including:
    - i) setting appropriate roles and responsibilities;
    - ii) ensuring appropriate qualifications; and
    - iii) overseeing performance;
  - (d) billing for medical practice;
  - (e) advertising and promotion of services;
  - (f) quality assurance and quality improvement;
  - (g) notification to the College at least 30 days prior to:

<sup>1</sup>The practice of medicine includes, but is not limited to, the provision of patient care by a regulated member of this College and the professional and administrative activities which support that care. A medical practice cannot be delegated to or owned by a non-physician person or business, but is the exclusive domain of a regulated member regardless of practice setting.

### 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 regulated member may exercise reasonable discretion.
- “*Patient*” includes, where applicable, the patient’s legal guardian or substitute decision maker.

- i) establishing or moving the physical location of a practice, providing the street address and services to be offered; or
    - ii) initiating or resuming a service or procedure that requires regulation by this College, as identified in the *CPSA Standards of Practice*<sup>2</sup> and College bylaws; and
  - (h) clear identification to patients and the public coming into the practice setting of the qualifications of all care providers, including:
    - i) for regulated healthcare professionals, their professional designation, professional standing and scope of practice; and
    - ii) for non-regulated care providers, their unregulated standing.
- 2) In a multi-physician setting, one regulated member **must** be designated as the medical lead responsible for representing the clinic in interactions with the College.

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<sup>2</sup>See [Medical Services Requiring Accreditation Outside of Hospitals, Complementary and Alternative Medicine; Reprocessing of Medical Equipment](#) and College bylaws.

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