

POLICY # & TITLE	8.1 Biological Monitoring Program and Policies
PURPOSE	Describe the biological monitoring programs and associated policies for physicians experiencing substance use disorders
SCOPE	All physicians experiencing substance use disorders being monitored in the PHMP
NOTES	Regulated member means any person who is registered or is required to be registered as a member of the CPSA. Physicians with substance use disorders can benefit from enrolment in formalized monitoring program, reducing their likelihood of relapse.

LAST APPROVED: MAY 13, 2022

POLICY STATEMENT

Policies established for biological monitoring of physicians experiencing substance use disorders must adhere to the following requirements:

- 1) Monitoring systems are individualized, taking into account the recommendations of the treatment and/or assessment programs attended by the physician.
- 2) Monitoring systems may include testing of body fluids and/or other biological entities.
- 3) Monitoring, where possible, is to be done in a randomized fashion, except in cases where regular time-based tests may be used.
- 4) Decisions regarding the type of testing system to be used are discussed with the Drug Testing Review Consultant, to ensure the most appropriate, up-to-date and effective method is used.
- 5) Results of the tests are sent to the Drug Testing Review Consultant, responsible for ordering the investigation.
- 6) Results of the tests are shared with the Program Manager responsible for the CPSA biological monitoring program.
- 7) The duration of the monitoring program is determined by the Assistant Registrar, as outlined in the policy on [Agreements](#).
- 8) Physicians in the monitoring program are expected to participate in monthly group monitoring meetings. Assistance with travel difficulties or other unusual circumstances will be considered.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Agreements](#)
- [Alumni](#)

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Registrar is given the authority to determine competence, including continuing competence of regulated members. The HPA allows the Registrar to delegate functions and duties to another person or committee. The Registrar's duties and responsibility under Part 3 of the HPA have been delegated to the Assistant Registrar(s) and/or Competence Committee responsible for continuing competence, including physician health monitoring.

APPROVAL

Council governing the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta

AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS

- [Health Professions Act](#)
- [CPSA Bylaws](#)
- [Standards of Practice](#)