

About CPSA

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) is the regulator for all physicians, physician assistants and surgeons in the province. Our role, granted to us by the *Health Professions Act* (HPA), is to protect the public by guiding and supporting the medical profession. We do this in many ways, including:

- Issuing practice permits to those who meet educational and training criteria.
- Holding physicians and physician assistants in Alberta to ethical and medical practice standards.
- Supporting physicians and physician assistants in maintaining a high level of competence and quality patient care.
- Investigating and resolving complaints.
- Ensuring the safety and quality of medical and diagnostic testing services in Alberta through an independent accreditation program.

Governance

CPSA Council, comprised of regulated members elected by their medical colleagues and members of the public appointed by Alberta's Lieutenant-Governor in Council, sets direction and policy for CPSA. Daily operations are managed by CPSA's Registrar, and the executive and leadership teams.

Core Functions

Registration: When regulated members apply to practice in Alberta, we ensure they have the training, knowledge and skills to provide safe and competent care to Albertans.

Professional Conduct: We investigate complaints and apply discipline as needed, but favour an educational approach, working with regulated members to help them learn from mistakes and develop better practice.

Hearings: If a complaint proceeds to a formal disciplinary hearing, our Hearings Director will set a date for the hearing and appoint an independent Hearing Tribunal to consider the evidence and determine whether the regulated member is guilty of unprofessional conduct.

Continuing Competence: We work with regulated members to enhance their quality improvement and professional development. We offer targeted, flexible support and self-

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assessment tools for both individual and group practices, so they can identify opportunities for improvement and continue to advance their skills.

Analytics, Innovation & Research: We use evidence-based research, data and analytics to provide regulated members with practice-specific resources in support of informed, high-quality patient care.

Accreditation: We ensure the safety and quality of diagnostic and non-hospital surgical facilities and services, by developing accreditation standards, assessing and accrediting these facilities, and registering radiation equipment.

Physician Health Monitoring: We work with regulated members whose ability to practise may be affected by a health issue, offering support to ensure they can continue providing patients with high-quality care.

Standards of Practice: CPSA's *Standards of Practice*, along with the Code of Conduct and *Code of Ethics & Professionalism*, outline the minimum standards of professional behaviour and ethical conduct expected of all regulated members.

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