

Health Professions Act (HPA)

Medicine and other health professions are regulated in Alberta, to ensure all health practitioners consistently provide safe, competent care. The [Health Professions Act \(HPA\)](#) allows health professions to self-govern through regulatory bodies such as CPSA.

Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)

The [Personal Information Protection Act \(PIPA\)](#) governs when and how organizations can collect, use and disclose personal information, for purposes that are reasonable and in accordance with the HPA.

CPSA's Standards of Practice

CPSA's [Standards of Practice](#) are the minimum standards of professionalism and ethics expected from physicians and physician assistants practising medicine in Alberta. Standards are enforceable under the HPA and often used in complaint resolutions and disciplinary hearings.

Hearing Tribunal

A Hearing Tribunal is an independent, quasi-judicial body comprised of an equal number of regulated and public members. They consider the evidence presented at a disciplinary hearing to determine whether the allegations against a regulated member have been proven and constitute unprofessional conduct. Hearing Tribunals also impose sanction orders if a regulated member is found guilty.

Council Review/Appeal Panel

Hearing Tribunal, Registration application, Physician Health Monitoring and Accreditation decisions are eligible for appeal under the HPA. A Council Review or Appeal Panel, consisting of an equal number of regulated and public members of CPSA Council, hears submissions from both parties on the matter under appeal, considers the evidence and renders a decision in writing.

Merits decision

After a Hearing Tribunal considers all the evidence presented at a disciplinary hearing, they issue a written decision on whether or not the regulated member is guilty of unprofessional conduct under the HPA. This is called the merits decision.

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Sanction decision

If a Hearing Tribunal finds a regulated member guilty of unprofessional conduct, they must then decide on an appropriate sanction. This can include permit suspension, educational requirements, practice restrictions, monetary fines, or recovery of investigation and hearing costs. Merits hearings and sanction hearings are often held separately.

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