

Consultation 023 Outcomes

Council approved the formal consultation of the draft *Continuing Competence* standard at its May 2022 meeting. [Consultation took place](#) from June 6-July 6, 2022.

General comments

- Not having a draft version of the Continuing Competence Program Manual was challenging for many respondents, as they found it difficult to comment when they did not have all relevant details
 - Council directed the standard and Program Manual be brought back for review and consultation in two years
- Six respondents voiced support of the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association's (EZMSA) submission
- One respondent was extremely supportive of the standard, stating it lends credence to the practice of medicine and suggesting it form the basis for practice for all physicians
- Numerous respondents were unaware of the current continuing competence requirements, under both the *Physicians, Surgeons, Osteopaths and Physician Assistants Profession Regulation* and CPSA's Continuing Competence Program: many thought these were new requirements
- Potential adherence challenges:
 - The 5-year cycle needs to be monitored, prompted, and guided for physicians
 - May be viewed as an additional obligation
 - Lack of time/burnout
 - No training or support to help complete Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP)
 - Work is not remunerated
- Unintended consequences:
 - Checking competence implies distrust and undermines physician autonomy
 - The additional work required will cause some physicians to leave Alberta or retire early

Continuing Professional Development

- Questions regarding consistency and why the standard requires record retention of 6 years for a 5-year cycle

General Assessment – PPIP

- There is a sense that PPIP is new
- Comments that PPIP participation should be voluntary
- Suggestions to add to annual renewal
- Appears duplicative of MOC
- Not enough information available to members:
 - Suggestions for information/Q & A sessions

Competence Assessment

- Clause 12:
 - Calls to clarify:
 - How competence is determined – unclear what is being assessed
 - Importance of English proficiency mentioned
 - What “when directed” entails
 - Who is directing (other clauses reference the Continuing Competence Committee and/or Registrar: clause 12 only states “when directed,” not by whom)

This standard was developed under direction of [Bill 46, The Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020](#) with the expectation that the Continuing Competence section of the regulation would be transferred into a standard of practice with no substantive changes. As such, no changes were made from the consultation version.

Council approved the standard, but it won't take effect until the corresponding provisions of Bill 46 come into force, which is anticipated to occur in spring 2023.

The Continuing Competence Program Manual is in development and will be available when the standard is implemented.

Review Standard

Continuing Competence

1. [Consultation version](#)
2. [Version approved by Council](#)
3. [Marked comparison with current version](#)

Questions? Contact standardsofpractice@cpsa.ab.ca.