

Consultation Companion Guide

Why are you seeing changes to multiple standards?

The Government of Alberta's legislative changes respecting dual practice required CPSA to develop a new Dual Practice standard of practice. During that work, CPSA also reviewed related standards to ensure the standards suite remains internally consistent, reflects current legislation and practice, and avoids duplication or conflicting expectations. Rows identified as Legislative Alignment highlight amendments made to reflect changes in legislation, regulations, Orders in Council or Ministerial Orders.

This workbook summarizes the significant amendments proposed for consultation. It is intended to complement—not replace—the accompanying marked versions of the standards. Formatting changes, renumbering, and other minor amendments are shown in the marked versions but are not individually described here.

The amendments fall into four categories:

Legislative alignment (Bill 11)

Changes required to align terminology or obligations with legislation, regulations or Ministerial Orders.

Standards harmonization

Changes that clarify which standard owns a particular professional obligation and improve consistency across the standards suite.

Legislative alignment/Standards harmonization

Changes prompted by the dual practice legislative framework that harmonize terminology and professional expectations across the standards suite

Modernization

Changes that reflect current professional practice and communication methods without changing the underlying regulatory principles.

Terminology hierarchy

The legislative terms were used where precision is important and the audience is primarily physicians (e.g.,*Dual Practice*).

Plain-language terms, followed by the legislative terms in parentheses, were used where patients are also an audience (e.g.,*Advertising*).

Standard-specific terminology was used where the standard regulates a broader concept than the legislation (e.g.,*Charging for Uninsured Professional Services*).

CHARGING FEES			
PRIMARY DRIVER	CURRENT PROVISION(S)	AMENDED PROVISION(S)	RATIONALE
Legislative Alignment	Title (updated)	Changed title to "Charging Fees"	Lifted a level to prevent unintentional narrow application/interpretation based on the title.
Legislative Alignment	Preamble (updated)	Added relationship to non-Plan services and Dual Practice.	Clarifies the relationship between this standard and the <i>Dual Practice</i> standard.
Legislative Alignment	Definitions (new/updated)	Updated definitions for block fees, insured health service and non-Plan services.	Aligns terminology with the <i>Alberta Health Care Insurance Act</i> and the dual practice framework while preserving standard-specific terminology for fee-related obligations.
Legislative Alignment	Clause 2(a): Prohibited charges (updated)	Updated "insured services" to "insured health services."	Aligns terminology with the amended <i>Alberta Health Care Insurance Act</i> .
Standards Harmonization	Clauses 4–7: Clauses relating to billing discussions and fees (new)	Clarified preliminary fee information, pre-service fee discussion, non-Plan written acknowledgement, accommodation/fee disputes, documentation, invoices, and prohibition on charging for insured after-hours access.	Improves clarity regarding physicians' billing responsibilities.
Standards Harmonization	Clause 8: Combining insured and non-Plan services (new)	Added expectations requiring regulated members to clearly communicate which services are publicly funded and which require payment, describe available options impartially and manage conflicts of interest in accordance with the Conflict of Interest standard.	Aligns terminology and expectations with the <i>Dual Practice</i> and <i>Conflict of Interest</i> standards.
Modernization	Clauses 9–10: Block fee provisions (new)	Expanded expectations governing block fee arrangements.	Consolidates existing guidance and improves transparency.
Modernization	Clauses 11–13: Missed or cancelled appointments (new)	Added dedicated provisions governing missed or cancelled appointments.	Formalizes existing guidance and establishes consistent expectations.
Standards Harmonization	Clauses 14-15: Collecting fees (new)	Clarified fee collection, privacy obligations and use of third-party administrators.	Reflects contemporary billing practices while reinforcing professional accountability.