Consultation Companion Guide

Why are you seeing changes to multiple standards?

The Government of Alberta's legislative changes required CPSA to develop new standards of practice for gender-affirming care and written orders for office supply of opioid agonist therapy. 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 (Bills 9 and 29)

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.

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CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES - PROPOSED RETIREMENT

CPSA recommends retiring the *Cannabis for Medical Purposes* standard of practice. The standard was developed in a pre-legalization environment and contains detailed, cannabis-specific requirements that no longer fit the current regulatory landscape. Other jurisdictions have reached similar conclusions, and CPSA has observed very little activity or concern requiring a standalone standard.

Retiring the standard would not remove physicians' obligations when authorizing cannabis for medical purposes: regulated members would remain responsible for complying with applicable federal legislation and CPSA *Standards of Practice* relating to clinical judgment, informed consent, continuity of care, conflicts of interest and patient records. Any requirements that remain necessary can be retained through those existing standards or related guidance. This would reduce duplication and support a more current, coherent and principle-based standards framework.

This approach is consistent with the retirement framework, which supports retirement where no unique enforceable expectations would be lost and public protection remains safeguarded elsewhere.

PRIMARY DRIVER	CURRENT PROVISION(S)	AMENDED PROVISION(S)	RATIONALE
Modernization	Entire *Cannabis for Medical Purposes* standard	Retire the standalone standard. Relevant expectations will continue to be addressed through broader standards and applicable resources.	The legal and practice environment has changed since the standard was developed, and CPSA has received very little activity related to it. Maintaining a topic-specific standard is no longer necessary where the applicable expectations can be addressed through existing, broadly applicable standards. Retirement also supports a more consistent standards framework that avoids duplicating general professional obligations.

EXISTING EXPECTATION	DISPOSITION	WHERE IT WILL BE ADDRESSED
Clinical assessment, treatment planning and prescribing decisions	Consolidated	*Safer Prescribing* and *Informed Consent*
Discussion of risks, benefits and alternatives	Consolidated	*Informed Consent*
Documentation of assessment, rationale and follow-up	Consolidated	*Patient Record Content* and other applicable documentation requirements
Continuity, monitoring and transfer of care	Consolidated	*Continuity of Care* and *Transfer of Care*
Cannabis-specific information that is no longer necessary as a standalone requirement	No longer required	General professional obligations and, where appropriate, external educational resources