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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COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE - LEGISLATIVE MAPPING

PRIMARY DRIVER	STANDARD SECTION	KEY EXPECTATIONS	RATIONALE
Legislative alignment (Bill 9)	Purpose and scope	Establishes minimum expectations for regulated members who assess or provide care to minors in Alberta for gender dysphoria or gender incongruence. Does not establish requirements for care provided to adults.	Clarifies the population and care covered by the standard. Explicitly directs regulated members to the companion Gender-Affirming Care Advice to the Profession for more detailed guidance on applying relevant legislative requirements and professional obligations.
Legislative alignment (Bill 9)	Definitions	Defines gender dysphoria and gender incongruence.	Clarifies the terminology used in the standard. Definitions associated with the removed detailed legislative provisions are no longer included.
Legislative alignment (Bill 9)	Standard requirements	Requires care to comply with applicable legislative requirements, including sections 1.91 and 1.92 of the Health Professions Act and M.O. 31/2025, CPSA's Standards of Practice and current best available evidence relevant to the patient's presentation.	Following legal review, references the applicable legislative provisions and Ministerial Order rather than repeating their wording. This reduces duplication and the need to amend the standard when legislative wording changes. Detailed guidance remains in the companion Advice to the Profession.