



The College of
Physicians and Surgeons
of Newfoundland and Labrador

UPDATES TO BY-LAW 5: CODE OF ETHICS

Notice to College Members

June 22, 2021

At a meeting on June 19, 2021, Council of the College approved amendments to the College's [By-Law 5: Code of Ethics](#).

The Code of Ethics establishes definitions of “professional misconduct,” “conduct unbecoming a medical practitioner,” “professional incompetence,” and “incapacity or unfitness to engage in the practice of medicine.” The College’s Code of Ethics applies to all licensed physicians and educational registrants.

Amendments to Code of Ethics include:

- Under the definition of “professional misconduct,” the following additions:
 - “Failing to provide a patient or a patient’s authorization representative with access to, or copies of, all medical records in the medical practitioner’s custody or control upon request, unless an exception to disclosure applies.”
 - “Dispensing medication contrary to a Standard of Practice or Practice Guideline.”
 - “Engaging in a boundary violation contrary to a Standard of Practice or Practice Guideline.”
 - “Contravening or failing to comply with a directive issued by the Quality Assurance Committee.”
- Updating the definition of “incapacity or unfitness to engage in the practice of medicine” as follows:

All College communication to its members will be by email.
It is a professional obligation for College members to read all College communications.



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- “Continuing to practise the profession in circumstances where a medical practitioner knows, ought to know, or has been advised that they have a deficient clinical ability as a result of a physical or mental condition, disease, or disorder.”

A copy of this [By-Law](#) can be found on the College’s website under “For Physicians.” Physicians are expected to be familiar with this document.

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