



UPDATED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Notice to College Members

July 12, 2022

Council of the College recently updated three Standards of Practice (Accepting New Patients, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), and Professional Responsibilities in Medical Education) and adopted a new Practice Guideline (Opioid Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder).

These documents are linked below and can also be found on the “Policies & Guidance” page of the College’s website (cpsnl.ca).

[Accepting New Patients \(2022\)](#)

In selecting new patients, physicians must ensure that access to medical care is fair and non-discriminatory. Physicians who are accepting new patients into their practice should review this Standard of Practice to ensure office policy compliance.

[Medical Assistance in Dying \(MAiD\) \(2022\)](#)

As a result of updates to federal legislation and provincial policies, the MAiD Standard of Practice has been updated. Physicians who may be approached by a patient for information on MAiD should be familiar with their responsibilities under this Standard of Practice, including a requirement to engage in a fulsome discussion with the patient.

[Professional Responsibilities in Medical Education \(2022\)](#)

This Standard of Practice applies to both educational registrants and their physician supervisors. Updates include a specific requirement for supervisors to take reasonable steps to stop violence,

harassment, or discrimination against an educational registrant, and to provide support and direction in addressing disruptive behaviour in the learning environment.

[Opioid Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder \(2022\)](#)

The College's Methadone Maintenance Treatment and Suboxone® Practice Guidelines have been repealed and replaced with this unified Practice Guideline. Physicians who prescribe medication for opioid dependence are expected to do so in accordance with the recommendations outlined in this Practice Guideline.

Medical Marihuana [repealed]

The College's Medical Marihuana Practice Guideline has been repealed. As with any medication, physicians should only prescribe medical marihuana in a manner which is safe, evidence-based, appropriate for the patient's health condition, and in accordance with applicable Health Canada requirements.

This and all other Notices can be viewed on our website at www.cpsnl.ca > News

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