



UPDATED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Notice to College Members

December 13, 2022

Council of the College recently updated four Standards of Practice and two Practice Guidelines. Highlights from each document are detailed in this Notice.

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

[Complementary & Alternative Medicine](#)

Physicians practising Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) must practise in a manner that is informed by medical evidence and science and is in keeping with their professional, ethical, and legal obligations. Physicians must provide clear, accurate, and truthful information when recommending CAM therapies and practices and always act in patients’ best interests.

[Ending the Physician-Patient Relationship](#)

In situations where the therapeutic relationship ceases to be effective, a physician may decide not to continue seeing a patient. When ending the physician–patient relationship, a physician must (i) make reasonable attempts to resolve the issue (in most cases) and only end the relationship if those attempts have been unsuccessful; (ii) have reasonable grounds to end the relationship; (iii) provide adequate notice to the patient or their representative; and (iv) facilitate continuity of care and the transfer of medical records.

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

[Physician Treatment of Self, Family Members, or Others Close to Them](#)

As codified in the CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism, physicians **must not** provide treatment for themselves, their family members, or others close to them except for minor conditions or emergency treatment, in circumstances where another qualified health-care professional is not readily available.

This Standard sets out the limited circumstances in which it may be acceptable for physicians to provide treatment for themselves, family members, or others close to them. It also includes questions to consider when assessing if your professional objectivity may be compromised.

[Opioid Prescribing](#)

The College continues to recognize the *2017 Canadian Guidelines for Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain* as the current best practice for physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador when prescribing opioids for chronic non-cancer pain. Until Canadian guidelines for the treatment of acute pain are released, the College continues to support the *CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain (2016)*, as it pertains to the use of opioids for acute pain.

[Uninsured Services](#)

When charging for an uninsured service, physicians are expected to comply with this Practice Guideline. Requirements include referring to the NLMA Guide to Non-Insured Services, informing patients of any fee to be charged in advance of providing the service, and only charging fees that are reasonable in the circumstances.

[Duty to Report a Colleague](#)

Physicians have a responsibility to uphold patient safety and to protect the integrity of the medical profession. As such, if a physician has reasonable grounds to believe that a colleague has engaged in unprofessional or unethical conduct or has provided medical care which falls below the expected standard, the physician has a legal obligation to report their concerns to the College. This Standard sets out circumstances which require a report, how to report, and what happens after the College receives a report.

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

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