

JUNE 2023

UPDATE



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
June 1 to September 5

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SEPTEMBER 9

Q3 Council meeting
CPSNL offices
8:30 a.m.

2023 Q2 COUNCIL MEETING

The College Council held its second-quarter regular meeting—followed by its annual general meeting—on June 17, 2023. Highlights are presented below.

REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Professional Conduct:** O. Howell noted that, like other colleges across the country, College staff are **expecting 2023 to be a “record year” for complaints received.** To reduce strain on the Complaints Authorization Committee, staff are working on process efficiencies and targeted early resolution of selected complaints.
- **Licensing & Registration:** J. Osmond presented the Q1 report. G. Hamilton noted that the Licensing Committee will meet to develop policies to operationalize **two new licence types:** Associate Licence and Clinical Assistant Licence. It was also noted that the Licensing section on cpsnl.ca is being updated to include new and revised licensure eligibility requirements.
- **Finance & Audit:** G. Hamilton provided Council with updates from the May 12 meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee and presented the 2022 audited statements.
- **College Operations:** C. Lee presented the April 30 Statement of Operations, noting that **targets were met** and that a new year-over-year comparison-friendly format will be introduced.

NEWS, REVIEWS, DISCUSSION

- **Five-Year Strategic Plan:** T. Adey referred Council members to an **infographic** summarizing the College’s Strategic Plan, as seen on p. 30 of the annual report. She noted that the next step in strategic plan implementation will be

Important changes in the Virtual Care Standard of Practice

The College's initial consultation on revisions to its Standard of Practice on Virtual Care resulted in significant changes. Consequently, a second round of consultation was held. Respondents included many stakeholder groups (with diverse demographic registrant representation), and there was significant support for the proposed changes to the revised Standard. Physicians must note two major changes:

1. You must provide virtual care in conjunction with in-person care—not as an absolute alternative to it. All physicians providing virtual care are thus expected to either:

a. Offer in-person care as a part of their usual practice of medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador.

OR

b. Have an arrangement, through agreement or policy, with another regulated healthcare provider or health authority that allows patients to access in-person care from one or the other (or both).

2. Physicians providing virtual care to patients in this province must hold a Licence to Practice Medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of NL. (Three exceptions to this requirement were made, in the interest of ensuring continuity of and access to care.)

Please review the full details of the revised Standard and related FAQ at cpsnl.ca.

development of the accompanying Operational Plan, which will be presented to Council later this year.

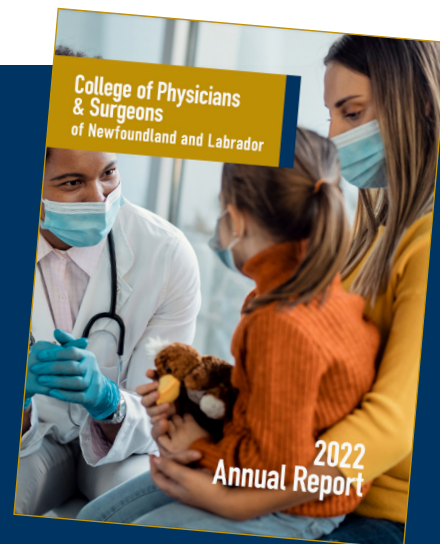
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... 2023 Q2 Council Meeting, cont.

- **Updated Medical Regulations, 2023**: G. Hamilton acknowledged the significant amount of time staff needed to contribute to the development of the new *Regulations*. E. Bruce noted the College's **overall satisfaction** with the completed new *Regulations*, adding that attention is still needed on updating the *Medical Act, 2011*.
- **The Atlantic Registry**: T. Adey reported on the **May 1 implementation** of the Atlantic Registry MOU, and noted **other provinces' interest in it at the recent meeting of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) meetings** (see box this page). J. Osmond discussed the efforts needed to adapt to interprovincial differences in licensing requirements and noted that the College identified internal process improvement opportunities as a **secondary benefit** of this initiative.
- **Operations**: J. Osmond reported that **cyber security threats continue to be a high priority for the College**. The College is currently investigating options for a new registrant management system and transitioning to a new phone system that will improve hybrid work transitions.
- **Quality Assurance**: O. Howell reported that the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) **is managing 15 active cases** and that an updated MOU with the NLMA regarding the **Physician Care Network** is being prepared.
- **Physician Peer Review**: O. Howell reported that the College's **Physician Peer Review Program (PPR-NL) has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 27 Mainpro+ credits**. Physicians who have completed or will complete the PPR-NL Program will be issued a certificate of completion.
- **Stakeholders**: T. Adey shared highlights of the recent **FMRAC annual conference in Halifax**, which some College staff and Council Chair G. Hamilton attended.

APPROVED FOR ACTION

- Council approved revisions to the **Virtual Care Standard of Practice** without amendments. The updated Standard has **important changes** (see box on p. 1); the College is developing a plan to make the public aware of this Standard.
- Council approved the new **Closing or Taking Leave from a Medical Practice (2023) Standard of Practice** without amendments (previously a Practice Guideline). Members can and should **review both Standards at cpsnl.ca**.



Our year in review

The College's recently issued annual report—which looks both back and ahead—is posted at cpsnl.ca.

FMRAC CONFERENCE 2023

The Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada's annual meeting, held in Halifax June 9 through 12, afforded an opportunity for Medical Regulatory Authorities (MRAs) and leaders from affiliated organizations to engage in detailed discussions of how MRAs might contribute to improving access to care. MRAs view the Atlantic Registry model of physician multi-jurisdictional licensing as the model that best balances effectiveness, feasibility, and functionality. They have committed to working together to explore adapting this model of multi-jurisdictional licensing, recognizing that legislation is different in each province/territory and may contain barriers to multi-jurisdictional licensing that would need to be addressed.

The Mandate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador
“The College is authorized to regulate the practice of medicine and the medical profession
in the public interest.”

As established by the *Medical Act, 2011*