



UPDATES ON PRESCRIBING AND MEDICAL RECORDS

Notice to College Members

December 15, 2023

The College Council recently approved new Standards of Practice on the topics of **Prescribing & Dispensing of Medications** and **Medical Records Documentation & Management**.

We consulted with physicians, patients, and organizations across the health care system to ensure these documents reflected current practice issues, embodied the duties of medical professionalism, and were consistent with the College's mandate to act in the public interest. We appreciate the insight and perspectives provided by those who participated in the consultation. All feedback received was thoughtfully reviewed and considered in finalizing these documents.

[Prescribing & Dispensing of Medications](#)

Prescribing and dispensing medication requires appropriate knowledge, skill, and judgment. This Standard of Practice sets out the College's expectations for physicians who prescribe medication. This Standard of Practice also sets out the limited circumstances in which a physician can dispense medications and the College's expectations for physicians who engage in this practice.

[Medical Records Documentation & Management](#)

Medical records contain valuable information about a patient's clinical history and interactions with healthcare providers. Ensuring that a patient's medical record is complete, accurate, accessible, and securely stored contributes to the quality and continuity of medical care for the patient. This Standard of Practice sets out the College's expectations for physicians in creating and amending medical records. It also outlines the responsibilities of physicians who act as custodians of medical records to ensure confidentiality, appropriate access, and retention of records within their custody and control.

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.