



COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Q3 2026 Update

Oct 9, 2026

Q3 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

A hybrid meeting of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador (CPSNL) was held September 12, 2026 at the CPSNL Office, 120 Torbay Road, with virtual attendance available via Microsoft Teams.

During Q3, CPSNL continued to make regulation clearer, more consistent, and easier for Registrants and members of the public to navigate, while supporting safe, high-quality medical care in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Licensing and Registration team continued working with regional and provincial partners to find innovative approaches to licensure pathways. The Atlantic Registry partners finalized an updated memorandum of understanding to support a coordinated approach to registration across the region. CPSNL also updated its website to align with the *Fair Registration Practices Act* and to provide clearer information about Physician Assistants, a profession that CPSNL now regulates under provincial legislation. These changes support fair, transparent registration processes and make requirements easier for applicants and the public to navigate.

In Professional Conduct, files opened were up 22% compared to the same time last year, and the department closed 35% more files than the same time last year. A physician with expertise in obstetrics and gynecology was appointed to the Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC), strengthening access to specialized clinical knowledge when reviewing relevant complaints. CPSNL is recruiting physicians with expertise in psychiatry and general surgery for appointment to the CAC as needed.

CPSNL published a new [Professional Conduct By-Law](#) that sets out the processes followed in professional conduct matters under the *Medical Act, 2011*. CPSNL also collaborated with other professional regulators to develop a common [Disciplinary Panel Rules of Procedure](#) that establish how disciplinary hearings are conducted, including the steps participants follow and how matters are managed before and during a hearing. Together, these procedural updates support greater consistency, fairness, accessibility, and transparency across regulatory proceedings.

The Quality team advanced development of Practice Forward NL, a new quality assurance program for all physicians expected to launch in 2027. The proposed program will use a proactive, risk-based, and evidence-informed approach to support continuous improvement, while preserving CPSNL's ability to respond when specific concerns arise. More information will be shared closer to program launch.

Continuing Professional Development

To support high-quality patient care and professional growth, licensed physicians and physician assistants in Newfoundland and Labrador are required to stay enrolled and up to date with an approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program that aligns with their scope of practice. This is a requirement for licence renewals.

Approved programs include:

- Mainpro+ offered by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)
- Maintenance of Certification Program (MOC) offered by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)
- Maintenance of Certification Program offered by the Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada (PACCC)

Registrants are encouraged to review [the policy](#), their CPD status, and ensure their enrollment remains active.

If illness, parental leave, caregiving, or other exceptional circumstances prevent you from meeting these requirements, a deferral may be requested from the Quality Assurance Committee using CPSNL's [Application Form](#).

CPSNL has introduced several changes to make its quality assurance work more consistent and transparent for Registrants. These include updates to how [fitness to practice](#) concerns are managed and communicated, with clearer information about reporting obligations and what happens after a concern is received. CPSNL also updated its oversight and assessment processes, revised how Registrants' practice is monitored and reviewed, and introduced new and updated Quality policies.

CPSNL continues to monitor Registrants' compliance with continuing professional development requirements and work with certifying bodies, including the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, to support follow-up and communicate the requirements of CPSNL's [Continuing Professional Development Policy](#).

-Continued on Page 2

Regulating the practice of medicine in the public interest.

Fairness - Quality of Service - Innovation - Social Responsibility - Communication - Transparency - Inclusion & Diversity

Q3 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

(continued)

The Governance Committee advanced a new framework policy to guide CPSNL’s approach to plain-language communication across public-facing policies and other regulatory documents, where appropriate. The framework is intended to improve readability, accessibility, and consistency so that Registrants, the public, and partner organizations can more easily understand CPSNL’s expectations and processes.

There will be no Council election this year. All current Council members remain in their terms and there are no open seats. An election is expected in 2027.

CPSNL is [currently advertising](#) across Newfoundland and Labrador for participants in its Public Advisory Network. The network will create a structured way for members of the public to provide feedback on CPSNL policies, processes, and communications, helping ensure regulatory work is informed by diverse perspectives from across the province.

In Corporate Services, CPSNL strengthened its privacy and breach-response planning to help keep information safe. An industry-leading firm was engaged to expand privacy and information security services and support organizational readiness. CPSNL also provided artificial intelligence training for Council and staff to build a shared understanding of responsible use, emerging risks, and appropriate safeguards.

Across CPSNL, Q3 initiatives reflect an ongoing commitment to transparency, consistency, and continuous improvement, setting clear expectations for Registrants and strengthening public confidence in medical regulation.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2026. CPSNL extends warm wishes to Registrants, staff, stakeholders, and the public this fall.



How can we improve our communication?
Share your feedback

2027 Annual Renewal



Key Dates:

- **Nov 2, 2026:** 2027 Licence Renewal period begins
- **Dec 2, 2026:** Administrative penalties applied for applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. Dec 1
- **Jan 14, 2027:** 2026 Annual Licences expire 11:59 p.m.

New for 2027:

- 2027 changes are editorial only – more clear and consistent wording; no change to requirements

Not Renewing
your Licence for
2027?

LET US KNOW!

Policy Changes

5 UPDATES

Provisional Licence Family Medicine

- Added core rotation requirement

Currency of Practice

- Removed discretion to waive currency requirements and no longer permits significant practice gaps before a practice-ready assessment

Non-Practicing Status

- Removed the liability coverage requirement during leave for clinic owners; the change now applies to all Registrants.

Re-Entry to Practice

- Renamed the policy, added and amended definitions, and clarified the assessment application process.

Re-entry to Practice Assessments

- Updated how to apply and detailed the assessment stages: initial assessment, training and supervision (if applicable), and final assessment.

By-Law 7: Professional Conduct

NEW!

By-Law 7 explains, in plain language, how an allegation is filed, how it is investigated and reviewed by the Complaints Authorization Committee, and how decisions are made, part of our ongoing commitment to transparency for Registrants and the public.

Regulating the practice of medicine in the public interest.

Fairness - Quality of Service - Innovation - Social Responsibility - Communication - Transparency - Inclusion & Diversity