Mission
Serving the public by guiding the medical profession

Vision
Albertans are healthier because the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta:

- ensures that physicians are competent throughout their careers;
- supports physicians in providing compassionate, caring and ethical services to the people of Alberta;
- fosters quality health care for all Albertans through innovation, collaboration and cooperation with other key stakeholders; and
- advocates for public policy that contributes to the health of Albertans.
We value the privilege of self-regulation granted to us by the people of Alberta and are committed to continually earning their trust. To that end, we commit to act according to the following set of values:

1. When making decisions, we use available evidence and, when evidence is not available, we work to develop it to inform our work.

2. We support our organization and each other – we care, we share, we listen, we respond.

3. We are responsible – for giving our best effort, for asking tough questions, for achieving high standards, and always trying to improve.

4. We treat people with fairness and respect.

5. We value diversity in people and ideas.

6. We practise open and honest communication – we engage in relevant, timely and meaningful discussion at all levels and with all partners.

7. We seek and are open to new ideas; we are flexible in our thinking and our approaches to our work; we value innovation, enjoy our work and celebrate our achievements.

8. We work in a collegial, proactive manner with all external stakeholders.
The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta regulates the practice of medicine in Alberta. Self-regulation carries a heavy responsibility, as the work we do must be done fairly and — most importantly — in the best interest of the public. From this follows our mission statement: “Serving the public by guiding the medical profession.”

To achieve our mission, we must influence public policy that is important to the health of Albertans. We must also ensure the public is well served by knowledgeable and skilled physicians who practise professionally and ethically.

By providing quality patient care in a professional and ethical manner, physicians can continue to earn the trust of their patients and, subsequently, the ongoing privilege of being a self-regulated profession.

Trevor Theman, MD, FRCSC
Registrar
Good Medical Practice – it’s what we’re all about.

For more than a century, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta has been focused on one important role – ensuring Albertans can count on their doctors.

With specific roles and responsibilities outlined in Alberta’s Health Professions Act, the College works with Alberta doctors to help them provide safe and effective medical care to their patients.
• **Register physicians.** We review physician education, post-graduate training and, when necessary, arrange assessments to determine whether applicants are ready to practise. Physician qualifications and practice details are reviewed annually.

• **Investigate and resolve physician-related complaints.** We favor an educational or training approach, but apply discipline if necessary.

• **Provide clinical review.** We look at data (including prescribing patterns, Continuing Professional Development activity and practice demographics) to identify at-risk practices. We conduct assessments when necessary and work with identified physicians to make improvements. A College-sponsored program provides all physicians with feedback on their practice performance on a five-year cycle.

• **Accredit health facilities** (e.g. diagnostic imaging, laboratories, non-hospital surgical services). We inspect facilities, using stringent clinical and safety standards, and approve the physicians who work in these facilities.

• **Guide professional conduct and ethical behavior.** The CMA Code of Ethics, CPSA Standards of Practice and CPSA Code of Conduct outline the College’s expectations of Alberta physicians.

• **Contribute to public policy affecting healthcare delivery.**
College Council

Comprised of physicians, public members and representatives from Alberta’s medical schools, College Council makes policy decisions, develops regulations and approves standards of practice, codes of ethics and bylaws.

College Council Committees

College committees provide policy advice to Council and help guide College programs and services. Committees consist of Council members as well as physician and/or public representatives with expertise in specific areas.

Funding

Although financial support for specific projects may come from government or other organizational grants, College activities are funded primarily by physician fees.
The College endorses the Canadian Medical Association’s (CMA) Code of Ethics and has adopted it as our Code of Ethics, as required by the *Health Professions Act*.

The Code of Ethics is an ethical guide for Canadian physicians, residents and medical students. It focuses on decision-making, consent, privacy, confidentiality, research and physician responsibilities, and is based on the fundamental principles and values of medical ethics.

[Read the Code of Ethics](#)
CPSA Standards of Practice

Our CPSA Standards of Practice represent the minimum standard of professional behavior and good medical practice expected of Alberta physicians.

Learn more about the CPSA Standards of Practice

Advice to the Profession

The College provides advice to the profession documents to support standards and guide physicians when making decisions about appropriate care. Advice documents support the CPSA Code of Conduct and CPSA Standards of Practice.

Learn more about advice to the profession
Our Registration department:

- issues practice permits to eligible physicians;
- registers professional corporations;
- issues Certificates of Professional Conduct;
- verifies registration to other medical licensing authorities on behalf of Alberta physicians;
- responds to inquiries about Alberta physicians; and
- compiles statistical reports on physician resources.
Physicians must be registered with the College and hold a valid practice permit to practice medicine in Alberta.

The annual renewal process has two main components:

1. **Registration Information Form** — an online form containing a physician’s personal contact information as well as details on his/her training, registration, clinical practice, continuing medical education and whether he/she is accepting new patients.

2. **Payment of annual fees**

Each year, physicians must renew their practice permits by December 31st to avoid late payment penalties and possible cancellation. This applies to both individual members and professional corporations.

Physicians can renew their practice permits and update their practice profiles on our website: [www.cpsa.ab.ca](http://www.cpsa.ab.ca)
Continuous professional development includes the ongoing acquisition of new knowledge, skills and attitudes to maintain and improve competency. To maintain an Alberta practice permit, Alberta physicians must be enrolled in either the:

- **MAINPRO® program** of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, or
- **MOC® program** of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
The College investigates and resolves complaints about Alberta physicians. We favor an educational or training approach, which focuses on quality improvement but will apply discipline if necessary.

When the College receives a written complaint, our Complaints Director reviews it and determines how best to proceed based on options outlined in the *Health Professions Act*, including:

- **Complaint Dismissal** – This occurs when there is insufficient evidence, or because the complaint is trivial or vexatious in nature.
- **Direct Resolve** – An informal process where the complaint is resolved between the complainant and the physician.
- **Resolve with Consent** – An informal process where both the complainant and the physician consent to working with the College to resolve the matter. This process, where appropriate, includes working with the physician to make necessary practice changes.
- **Investigation** – A formal process where an investigator collects additional information and prepares a report. Based on that report, the Complaints Director can dismiss the complaint, resolve it with consent from the complainant and the physician, or send it to a formal hearing.

Whether our approach is informal or formal, our goal is to ensure the public receives safe and effective medical care from competent physicians.

[Learn more about our complaints process](#)
Under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA), information about physician-related complaints is confidential unless it leads to a formal discipline hearing.

We publish disciplinary decisions in *The Messenger* newsletter and on our website once all opportunities to appeal have passed.
Accreditation

Accreditation adopts and enforces standards for the safe and effective delivery of a variety of medical services provided outside of Alberta hospitals. Under contract with government or Alberta Health Services, we also accredit some hospital-based services.

Medical services we accredit are:

- cardiac exercise stress testing
- diagnostic imaging
- diagnostic laboratory testing
- hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- neurophysiology testing
- non-hospital surgical procedures
- pulmonary function testing
- sleep medicine
- vestibular testing
Accreditation

Physician Approvals
Physicians must have [College approval](#) to provide services in accredited facilities outside of hospitals.

Radiation Equipment
The College is authorized by the government to [register medical x-ray equipment and Class IIIb and IV lasers](#) in Alberta.

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Interpretation
Physicians, with the exception of cardiologists and pediatric cardiologists, must pass the College’s [ECG examination](#) before they can submit claims for the interpretation of ECGs to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.
Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC)

The IPAC program assesses physicians’ offices for:

- cleaning, disinfecting & sterilizing reusable medical devices
- general infection prevention and control principles

Methadone Program

Physicians who want to provide safe, accessible, effective and consistent clinical care to patients who may benefit from treatment with methadone can receive support from the College’s Methadone Program.

Medical Informatics

Provides advice to the profession on the responsible use of Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) in medical practice.
Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP)

The College, in partnership with pharmacists and dentists, created the TPP to monitor the use of medications prone to misuse or abuse for non-medical purposes, help reduce “double doctoring” and educate practitioners about prescribing TPP medications.

Assessment and Competency Enhancement (ACE)

The College’s ACE department ensures physicians remain competent throughout their careers by coordinating a variety of clinical assessments as well as identifying competency enhancement opportunities for physicians to improve their practice. This program provides:

- Practice Readiness Assessments
- Return to Practice Assessments
- Change in Scope of Practice Assessments
- Peer Review Assessments
The PAR Program gives physicians feedback on their performances. Every five years, a physician distributes a survey to his or her patients, physician colleagues and non-physician healthcare co-workers.

The survey covers topics such as medical competency, communication skills and office management. The results give physicians a benchmark for good performance and identify opportunities for professional development and practice improvement.

Physicians can suffer from medical conditions that may impair their ability to practise. The PHMP provides support to these physicians, monitors them and works with the Alberta Medical Association’s Physician and Family Support Program to help them access assessment and treatment programs as needed.
The Messenger monthly e-newsletter is the College’s main communications vehicle. It provides physicians and the public with timely information about programs and services, as well as issues and challenges important to practitioners and the healthcare system.

College Website

cpsa.ab.ca provides details about our lines of business, programs and services, resources for physicians and the public, as well as a search directory for all registered Alberta physicians.
Regional Tour

Our Regional Tour gives physicians the opportunity to meet face-to-face with College staff and Council members. The meetings help identify local issues and provide a unique opportunity for interactive discussion.

Speakers’ Bureau

College representatives are available to speak to physician groups, medical students, residents, other healthcare professionals and the public.

Request a speaker

Community Investment / Sponsorship

We sponsor educational and networking opportunities for Alberta physicians, residents and medical students.

Sponsorship request form
Find-a-Physician Search

The Find-a-Physician search on the College’s website provides information about all registered Alberta physicians, including practice phone numbers and addresses, qualifications, language(s) spoken, approvals, disciplinary actions and whether they are accepting new patients.

Physicians are responsible for updating their own practice profiles. Updates are reflected in the Find-a-Physician search within two business days.

Medical Directory Listings

Our medical directory listings are PDF reports of up-to-date physician information. The following listings are available:

- Actively Registered Physicians
  - Specialists Only
  - Non-Specialists Only
- Retired
- Obituaries
Do you need to update your practice profile?
You should access your practice profile if you need to update the following:

- Your email address
- Your status for accepting new patients
- Any limitations on your acceptance of new patients

This information (except your email) is posted publicly as part of your physician profile on the College’s website.

Are you moving?
Physicians are required to complete a Notification of Change Form when they:

- Move outside of Alberta
- Move within Alberta

Are you leaving your practice?
If you are retiring from practice or no longer wish to maintain your College registration, contact the College’s Registration Department by email or call 780-969-4925.

Get more information about closing a medical practice and options regarding your practice permit.
Have you obtained any new qualifications?
If you have recently obtained Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or College of Family Physicians of Canada certification, send us the appropriate documentation via email.

Are you enrolled in the College’s Pre-Authorized Payment Plan?
It’s the easiest and most convenient way to pay your annual fee – Enrol today.

Do you have or are you interested in a Professional Corporation?
See our FAQs about incorporating a medical practice.
For Physicians

Contact Us

Physician Inquiries
Email: memberinquiries@cpsa.ab.ca
Phone: 780-969-4925 or 1-800-320-8624 (in Alberta only)

Registration Inquiries
Email: registration@cpsa.ab.ca | Phone: 780-969-4924

Professional Corporations
Email: professionalcorporations@cpsa.ab.ca | Phone: 780-969-4927

Complaints
Email: complaints@cpsa.ab.ca | Phone: 1-800-661-4689

General Fax: 780-420-0651

Mail
College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta
2700 - 10020 100 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0N3
View our location on a map
For the Public

Contact Us

**General Inquiries**
Email: info@cpsa.ab.ca
Phone: 780-423-4764 or 1-800-561-3899 (in Alberta only)
Fax: 780-420-0651

**Complaints**
Email: complaints@cpsa.ab.ca
Phone: 1-800-661-4689

**Mail**
College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta
2700 - 10020 100 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0N3
[View our location on a map](#)

**Website:** cpsa.ab.ca