

CPSA preparing doctors for decriminalization of Physician-Assisted Death

September 9, 2105 – While Physician-Assisted Death (PAD) is not yet available to patients in Canada, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta wants to make sure the medical community in this province is ready to respond when PAD is expected to become legal in early February 2016.

The College has drafted advice on PAD for our members, based on an environmental scan of current PAD-legal jurisdictions. The draft advice is being shared widely with Alberta physicians, other health professionals and the public, as well as groups and organizations currently examining this issue at the provincial and national levels.

[CPSA DRAFT Advice to the Profession on Physician-Assisted Death: \(http://bit.ly/letstalkPAD\)](http://bit.ly/letstalkPAD)

“Physicians have a professional obligation to act in the best interests of the patient,” says Dr. Trevor Theman, CPSA Registrar. “While not required to provide PAD, physicians are expected to help patients who request PAD access all options for care.” This principle underlies the draft advice document, and has long been embedded in the College’s standard of practice [Moral or Religious Beliefs Affecting Medical Care](#).

Over the next few months, the College will be seeking feedback on the draft advice: *Does the advice hit the mark, has anything been missed, what else would be helpful?*” College Council will consider the feedback and refine the advice at its next meeting in early December.

The draft advice document can be found at <http://bit.ly/letstalkPAD>.

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Good medical practice is what the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is about. We issue practice permits to those who meet education and training criteria, ensure Alberta physicians uphold ethical and medical practice standards, and investigate and resolve physician-related complaints. We also accredit various medical facilities and provide direction on policy issues that help ensure responsible healthcare delivery.

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