

April 13, 2018

## Practice permit suspended – Dr. Vincenzo Visconti

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) this morning informed Dr. Vincenzo Visconti that his practice permit (license) is suspended indefinitely, effective April 27, pending the outcome of discipline proceedings related to a variety of ongoing concerns with his practice. As of the close of business Friday April 27, Dr. Visconti will not be allowed to see patients or practice medicine in any respect.

The College is acting under Section 65 of the Health Professions Act, which grants regulators the power to suspend a practice permit before a decision is reached by its usual discipline process.

During the 2-week notice period, Dr. Visconti will be allowed to see patients in his office from 1-6 pm, in order to help them transition to other physicians. He has been directed to inform patients of the impending closure of his practice (by notice, answering machine message, etc.). His prescribing will be limited. He will be required to follow any direction from CPSA, including referring patients to Health Link and putting an arrangement in place for ongoing access to patient records. Until April 27, patients or their physicians can request copies of their records from Dr. Visconti as usual. Once an ongoing arrangement is in place, the College will inform Link of who to contact.

The College is grateful for the support of Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, and other partners, in particular the Sherwood Park-Strathcona County Primary Care Network and its staff and member physicians, for their exceptional efforts to provide continuity of care for patients.

**Health Link (811) will serve as the single point of contact for patients:** Link will answer all inquiries, as well as contacting patients (starting Monday) to inform them of the closure of the practice and their options for care.

### **Patients of Dr. Visconti: call Health Link at 811**

- Link staff are aware of the closure of the practice and can give you information, answer questions about health concerns, and connect you with services as appropriate.
- If you need to see a physician in the next few days, eg to renew a current prescription or follow up a diagnostic test or other investigation, Link staff can help connect you with available physicians in Sherwood Park and across the Edmonton Zone as appropriate.
- If you do **not** need an appointment right away and you've seen a physician other than Dr. Visconti in the past year, consider contacting that physician's office.

- For help finding a new physician, go to [EdmontonAreaDocs.ca](http://EdmontonAreaDocs.ca)
- As always, in an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department, including the Strathcona Community Hospital.

“Patient safety and easy transition of care to other physicians is our number-one concern in this case and I want to emphasize the incredible support we’ve received in planning for continuity of care for patients,” says CPSA Registrar Dr. Scott McLeod. “Support has come from across the system, from individual physicians to Alberta Health Services, Alberta Health, the Alberta College of Pharmacists, and the Sherwood Park PCN and the Edmonton Zone PCNs as a group. The level of coordination and common commitment to patients really speaks to the strength of this health system.

“Section 65 is a last resort; we use it only in the rarest of cases, where we believe a physician’s practice represents a continuing risk to patients, we’ve been unable to remedy it using the tools available to us, and we finally are not willing to allow it to continue while the discipline process follows its course. It’s a sad day when we have to stop a physician from practicing but when there’s no other option, it’s our job and we do it.”

*The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is the professional regulator for over 10,000 Alberta physicians. Under the authority of the Alberta Health Professions Act we issue practice permits (licenses) to those who meet our education and training criteria, ensure physicians uphold ethical and medical practice standards, and investigate and resolve physician-related complaints. We also accredit various medical facilities and provide guidance on policy issues to help ensure responsible healthcare delivery.*

### **Contact**

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### **Media availability: Dr. Scott McLeod, Registrar, CPSA**

TODAY, Friday, April 13, 1 pm  
CPSA office, 27<sup>th</sup> floor, 10020 - 100 St. NW, Edmonton  
(TELUS House/ATB Place S Tower)