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## **CPSA to begin regulating physician assistants this spring**

**Edmonton, AB** – The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) will begin regulating physician assistants on April 1, 2021. Alberta Health announced this change in regulation today, highlighting the professionalism of physician assistants and the important role they play in Alberta’s healthcare team.

“Physician assistants have a long history of providing high quality care to patients under the supervision of a physician,” says Dr. Scott McLeod, CPSA Registrar. “CPSA is proud to welcome them as the newest regulated member of Alberta’s healthcare team.”

Physician assistants are healthcare providers who have the knowledge, training and skills to provide patients with a broad range of medical services under the supervision of a physician. They work in a variety of clinical team settings to complement existing services and help improve patient access to quality health care.

CPSA has long supported the regulation of physician assistants, and has been engaged with them since 2010. Currently, there are over 60 physician assistants who have voluntarily registered with CPSA.

As professionals supervised by physicians, physician assistants will be expected to follow all CPSA Standards of Practice and comply with CPSA continuing competence requirements.

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*The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is the regulator for all physicians and surgeons in the province and is governed by the Health Professions Act. Our role is to protect the public by issuing practice permits to those who meet educational and training criteria, hold Alberta physicians to ethical and medical practice standards, and investigate and resolve physician-related complaints. CPSA also ensures the safety and quality of medical and diagnostic testing services in Alberta through an independent accreditation program.*

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