



College Notes

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Prince Edward Island

Spring 2015



Dear Colleagues:

The College office staff is pleased to issue the Spring edition of our *College Notes* as a means of communication with our members. This Newsletter provides a brief summary on some topics that we feel are important.

Our Council members for 2015

- ❖ Dr. Chris Stewart, President
- ❖ Dr. Santhosh Lakshmi, Vice President
- ❖ Dr. Anne Drysdale, Acting Registrar
- ❖ Dr. Aaron Sibley, appointed by Government
- ❖ Dr. Andrew MacLeod
- ❖ Dr. Gary McLean
- ❖ Dr. Jean-Yves Dubois
- ❖ Mr. Neil Robinson, Lay member appointed by Government
- ❖ Ms. Barb Currie, Lay member appointed by Government

If you are interested in becoming a Council member, or willing to sit on a Committee, please contact the College office for more information.

The Office Staff:

- ❖ Dr. Cyril Moyse, Registrar
- ❖ Dr. Geraldine Johnston, Deputy Registrar
- ❖ Melissa MacDonald, Office Manager
- ❖ Sherry Glass, Administration Support

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Website Development

New and revised Policies and other documents are continually added to the website once approved by Council. Please regularly check our website (www.cpspei.ca). Since our last newsletter we have added:

- ❖ Marijuana--Physician-Patient Contract Form for Prescribing, December 2014. This is a suggested tool available for physicians to use. It is not mandatory to use this particular form, but it will be expected that those issuing medical documents for marijuana will have a similar contract with their patients, kept in the patient's medical record.
- ❖ A new Physician-Patient Contract Form for Prescribing Opioids is soon to be reviewed by Council and will be added in the near future. This is another tool available for use by physicians. It is not mandatory to use this particular form, but it is expected that physicians prescribing opioid medications will use a similar form with their patients, kept in the patient's medical record.

Legislative Issues

Physician Assisted Suicide-In February, 2015 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled unanimously that competent adults with grievous and irremediable medical conditions that cause enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individuals in the circumstances of their condition, have the right to ask a doctor to help them die. The basis for this ruling was that sections of the Criminal Code unjustifiably infringe on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms prohibiting physician assisted death. The present ban on physician-assisted suicide has been declared invalid and will be struck down in 12 months, unless federal and provincial governments amend legislation to respond to the ruling. ***This is a very significant ruling for physicians.*** Should governments decide not to respond to this ruling, the ban will be lifted and the issue will be placed chiefly with the medical profession. Discussions are presently being held by such national bodies as FMRAC, CMA and CMPA. Provincial and Federal Governments may or may not respond with legislative changes. Earlier in May, 2014, Quebec became the first Canadian province to adopt 'right to die' legislation in Bill 52, an act respecting end-of-life care. We will keep you posted as new information evolves.

Professional Issues / Education

1) CFPC Alternate Route to Certification

The deadline for registration for the Alternate Route to Certification in Family Medicine for those who have not yet certified, and wish to do so, has been extended to December 31, 2015. Family physicians trained and certified in certain jurisdictions outside of Canada may have their training and certification recognized by the CFPC and may also be eligible for an Alternate Route to Certification. They are advised to contact the CFPC regarding this recognition and certification.

2) Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter

Publications re Adverse reactions to pharmaceuticals can be found at: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/bulletin/index-eng.php>

3) CMPA Publications

The CMPA December, 2014 edition had a feature article on Medical-legal aspects of providing mental health care to patients. The March, 2015 edition feature article was on Supporting Patient Engagement. The May, 2015 special edition was on Healthcare Safety. On the CMPA website (www.cmpa-acpm.ca), you will find a newly developed "Consent to use electronic communications" template form, which is now available, and we encourage to use, if needed.

4) Methadone and Buprenorphine Prescribers

Those prescribing Methadone and Buprenorphine are reminded of the agreements they have previously signed with the CPSPEI (since first introduced in 2012) and the requirements for CME that must be completed over time. Those prescribing either drug for addiction are required to have completed a course on the fundamentals of addiction within 2 years of first prescribing, and 20 hours of CME in some aspect of addiction medicine over 5 years. Those prescribing Buprenorphine for addiction are also required to have completed the on-line Suboxone course. Those prescribing Methadone for addiction are also required to attend a Methadone Maintenance Treatment workshop before prescribing and to re-attend this course every 5 years thereafter (these hours can also count toward the 20 hours of CME in addiction medicine required every 5 years). Those prescribing Methadone for analgesia are required to have 20 hours of CME in pain management every 5 years.

Extended Relationships / News

1. **FMRAC (Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada)** The FMRAC AGM will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick this year from June 6-8, 2015. The theme of this year's meeting is "Medical Regulatory Authorities' Transparency of Information and their Role in Ensuring Physician's Continuity of Patient Care".

2. Medical Council of Canada

National Application—Saskatchewan recently signed on to the national application portal of the Medical Council of Canada, physiciansapply.ca. They are the 4th provincial MRA to have signed on, with Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. The site stores medical credentials and other documents that are source verified. Once fully developed across Canada, physicians will be able to use the site to apply for medical registration to one or several MRAs at the same time.

The New Blueprint project of the MCC is a review of the MCC's exams to ensure that critical core competencies, knowledge, skills and behaviors required of a physician entering residency (MCCQE Part I) and independent practice (MCCQE Part II) are being appropriately assessed. Automated Item Generation will be used to increase new examination content. Pilots of these exams will begin in 2015/2016. The new MCCQE I examination developed from the Blueprint Project is set to start in the spring of 2017.

NAC is working to develop a Pan Canadian PRA (Practise Ready Assessment) process for IMGs seeking provisional licensure in Canada. In addition to Family Medicine, PRA programs for Psychiatry and Internal Medicine are being developed. This process will lead to improved physician mobility. CPSBC has recently used the NAC process to launch a new PRA program in their jurisdiction.

At the AGM of 2014, it was announced that the joint harmonized examination of the MCC and the CFPC would not be continued. Starting in 2016, the examinations will be run as two separate examinations again, as they were before 2013.

3. Health PEI-CPSPEI-Medical Society of PEI Joint Session on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

A joint education day on ADR was held on January 9, 2015 in Charlottetown. The session was led by Gary Furlong, B.A., LL.M. (ADR), Chartered Mediator, from Toronto, Ontario. This was a day-long, interactive workshop on conflict management and alternate dispute resolution. It was attended by staff from HPEI, the MSPEI and the CPSPEI. Interestingly, in Ontario civil law, the mediation process is mandatory before one can go to the court room and in 80% of cases, these lawsuits are settled with mediation. At the College, we would like to see the use of mediation in our complaint/discipline process. In the future, we will likely move in this direction, trying to settle a majority of complaints through mediation.

4. Complaint/Discipline Process

As the result of a recent Court of Appeal Ruling regarding a Fitness to Practice Committee Hearing and what was deemed by the court as procedural unfairness, we will be making some changes to the complaint process. At the level of the Fitness to Practice Committee, all meetings will now be recorded. All complainants and witnesses giving testimony will now be sworn in under oath, by a Commissioner of Oaths. Legal counsel will be allowed to cross-examine witnesses at these meetings. All documents will be formally indexed. The entire process will be more formal, as recommended by the Court of Appeal.

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Please look after your own health & well-being.

Healthy & happy physicians look after their patients competently and with compassion.

**Please remember the College office will be closed from
Thursday, June 4, 2015- Monday, June 8, 2015**

The College office has a mail slot on the front door for anyone who wishes to drop off any mail

We at the College office hope you enjoy a great upcoming summer!