

# Council Highlights

Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta met in Edmonton on June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Significant outcomes of the meeting included:

## Highlights of the Registrar's Report

- **Intra-professionalism** – Discussions are occurring at a national level involving the College of Family Physicians of Canada, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canadian Medical Protective Association, Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada and Canadian Medical Association regarding how to improve relations between physicians and relations between hospitals and physicians.
- **Review of joint physician health program** – The Health Law Institute will conduct a review of the physician health program jointly administered by the College and the Alberta Medical Association (AMA). Both the College and the AMA identified members for the review panel, which includes a legal expert, public members and an ethicist.
- **Physician Advocacy** – The College will partner with interested organizations in a forum on physician advocacy planned for late 2011 or early 2012.
- **Access to data, Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP)** – The College continues to push for better data from Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW). AHW is now providing Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) data for the TPP, which the College is testing for accuracy and completeness.
- **Protection for Persons in Care Act (PPIC)** – The definition of abuse in this legislation has been broadened to include any harm that comes to a patient. The College and other key participants in Alberta's health system have raised concerns with the responsible ministry as this approach is contrary to Alberta's patient safety framework and patient safety principles in general.
- **Review of restricted activities** – AHW has initiated a review of the activities restricted to regulated professionals, as identified in the Government Organization Act. The College is requesting the use of lasers and hyperbaric oxygen therapy be added to the list of restricted activities.
- **Labor mobility/Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)** – Work is continuing on several fronts. Progress has been made on standardizing certificates of standing, although there are still some areas of contention between jurisdictions.

- **Application for Medical Registration (Canada)** – A single portal is being created for application to any jurisdiction in Canada. To be hosted by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), the portal will simplify this first step for applicants and allow them to specify to which jurisdiction(s) they wish to apply.

**Registration criteria - English proficiency** – In line with national standards, Council endorsed a new registration requirement for applicants from non-English speaking countries to provide evidence of English proficiency (i.e., completion of high school or at least two years of undergraduate education in English, or an acceptable score in the International English Language Testing System or the Test of English as a Foreign Language). The new requirement will be effective October 1, 2011.

**Publication of Hearing Tribunal decisions** – Council approved the publication of hearing transcripts once all appeals have been exhausted. Hearing decisions will continue to be published as rendered.

**Physician Health Monitoring Program (PHMP)** – Council approved proposed rules for PHMP participation, to go out for consultation to the profession and other interested parties.

**Fatigue management** – Following a presentation by Dr. Charles Samuels, Council will consider at its September meeting whether to strike a working group to explore how to help medical residents and physicians manage fatigue.

**Complaint Review Committee and Hearing Tribunal member lists** – Council approved the amalgamation of these lists to increase the number of people available to review complaints.

**New TPP Drug** – Council approved the addition of Nucynta™ (tapentadol) to the TPP drug list.

**Standards of Practice** – Council reviewed consultation input and adopted the following Standards of Practice, with amendments, effective July 1, 2011:

- Patient Records (revised)
- Advertising by Regulated members (revised)
- Episodic Care (new)

The Standards of Practice are available on the College website at [www.cpsa.ab.ca](http://www.cpsa.ab.ca) under Resources/Standards of Practice.