

Council Highlights

Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta met in Edmonton on March 9th and 10th, 2011. Significant outcomes of the meeting included:

Highlights of the Registrar's Report

- **Labor mobility** – The working groups and steering committee for the *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT) continue to meet. National discussions are ongoing with the participation of all medical regulators.
- **Information re: Managing MS patients** – The College recently distributed a document for managing patients with multiple sclerosis who have received out-of-country endovascular treatment for CCSVI. The advice was developed by a multidisciplinary group of Alberta physicians. It is available on the College website and will be updated and re-distributed to physicians as necessary.

Endorsement of the Strategic Plan

Council endorsed a new strategic plan, which includes a new vision, mission, values and goals, and passed a motion to circulate the document.

The strategic plan will ensure Albertans continue to benefit from a high quality of medical practice. It also sets a direction for the College to become a more involved partner with physicians, government and other participants in the health system.

Starting in April, the new plan will be shared with physicians and other key audiences via email, *Messenger* articles and presentations. A copy will also be available on the CPSA website.

Revised Standard of Practice – Advertising by Physicians

An amended version of the Standard on Advertising by Physicians was approved for formal consultation.

The revised Standard will be circulated to the profession and other audiences in March, and feedback from the consultation will be presented to Council at its June 2011 meeting.

Revised Standard of Practice – Patient Records

Revisions to the Standard on Patient Records were necessary to meet requirements of the *Health Information Act*, which came into effect on September 1, 2010. Additions to the Standard address the management of electronic records.

Council approved the revised Standard for formal consultation. It will be circulated to the profession and other audiences in March, and feedback from the consultation will be presented to Council at its June 2011 meeting.

Amendment to Postgraduate Training Criteria for Provisional Register Conditional Practice in Family/General Practice

Council amended the required length of community-based primary care from eight months to four months for those entering family/general practice on the Provisional Register Conditional Practice.

Recent work by the College of Family Physicians of Canada has shown that training programs in some other jurisdictions, which follow different approaches, produce equivalently-prepared practitioners.

This amendment allows the College to accommodate physicians who were trained in systems not identical to those in Canada.

Prescribing Practice Committee

The Prescribing Practice Committee (PPC) is a subcommittee of the Competence Committee. Council approved the PPC's Terms of Reference and approved circulation of the "Rules for Members for Participation in the Prescribing Practice Program" to the profession for comment.

Physician Achievement Review (PAR) Rules

Council rescinded one portion of the PAR Rules, which had been approved at its December 2010 meeting. The appeals process, which had been included in the PAR process, was found to have no authority under the *Health Professions Act* as failure to participate with the PAR process may be referred to the College's complaints director. Appeals would only be possible through the complaint process.

2010 Complaints Statistics

A summary of 2010 complaints statistics was presented to Council. A significant increase in the number of complaints was noted as the College received 867 complaints in 2010 compared to 756 in 2009.