

What is the Physician Health Monitoring Committee?

Last issue we introduced the first in what will be a series of articles regarding physician health and the College. The article referenced the Physician Health Monitoring Committee (PHMC), a standing committee of College Council, comprised of physicians with expertise in physician health.

Council appoints members of this committee, and at least one member must have expertise in addiction medicine. In the past two years, the PHMC has developed policies that assist the monitoring of physicians with specific health concerns. These policies will be posted on the College website later this spring.

The PHMC also provides advice to Council and College staff on the best approach for supporting physicians whose health condition may affect their practices, and ultimately patient safety.

Although public safety is paramount, the College strives to help physicians manage their condition so they can continue to practise in a safe manner.

Throughout this process, the confidentiality of a physician's personal health information is extremely important. Health information is kept in private files, segregated from information such as a physician's registration details. The Physician Health Monitoring Committee does

not have access to identifiable information. In addition, access to a physician's personal health information is restricted to everyone except the Assistant Registrar responsible for the Physician Health Monitoring Program, Dr. Janet Wright.

For further information about the Physician Health Monitoring Committee or Program, please contact Dr. Janet Wright at JanetL.Wright@cpsa.ab.ca.

