

Transition to Practice: Regulatory considerations from CPSA

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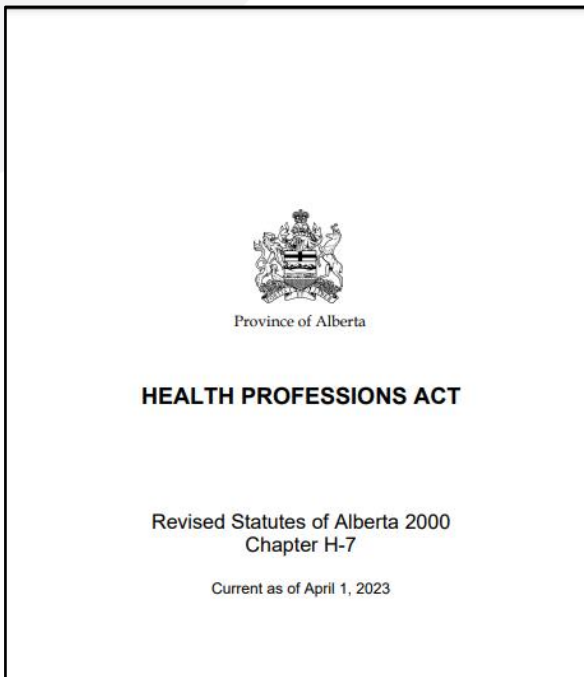
Land acknowledgement

CPSA respectfully acknowledges we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples. We strive to honour and celebrate the histories, languages and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples throughout Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8 territories, as well as in settlements and Indigenous communities across Alberta. Through this land acknowledgement, we commit to building and nurturing authentic relationships with Indigenous peoples as we work towards culturally-safe, equitable health care for all.



Overview of CPSA

Health Professions Act (HPA)



- CPSA oversees physician self-regulation through the HPA
 - Operate independent of government, but are accountable to legislation
- We protect Albertans by guiding the medical profession
 - *CPSA's Standards of Practice*
 - CPSA Code of Conduct
 - CMA's Code of Ethics and Professionalism

CPSA Council

- Sets CPSA's overall direction and policies
- Equal representation of elected physician members and appointed public members
- See Council meeting synopses:
<https://cpsa.ca/about-cpsa/governance/council/>



What we do

**Register
physicians &
physician
assistants**

**Support physician
continuing
competence**

**Accredit
diagnostic & non-
hospital surgical
facilities**

**Manage physician-
related complaints**

**Guide professional
conduct & ethical
behaviour**

**Contribute to
data-driven
innovation &
public policy on
health care**




Registration

Registration

- All physicians and physician assistants **must** have a valid practice permit to practise medicine
- CPSA registration is separate from AHS privileging
- Registers:
 - **General:** independent practice
 - **Provisional:** independent practice, supervised practice
 - i.e., postgraduate trainees, physician extenders
 - **Non-clinical:** active practice permit but not engaged in any clinical work for at least six consecutive months
 - i.e., parental leave, full-time administrative work or full-time teaching

Applying for independent practice

1. Email from CPSA three months before your program ends
2. Create a [physiciansapply.ca](https://www.physiciansapply.ca) account
3. CPSA review of qualifications
4. Submit required documentation (including criminal record check)
5. Pay one time registration fee and annual fee, and receive your practice permit



Find more information about registration on our website:

<https://www.cpsa.ca/physicians/registration>

Common questions

- What happens if I fail my exam?
 - If you obtain sponsorship and successfully complete a three-month supervised practice assessment, you may be eligible for the Provisional Register, Conditional Practice.
- When should I apply for an independent practice permit?
 - You should apply as soon as you receive your specialty certification, even if you are pursuing further (subspecialty) fellowship training.
- Is registration the same in every Canadian province?
 - Although there are commonalities, each province has its own registration requirements.
- Can I start working before I have my practice permit?
 - No, you cannot schedule your work until a permit has been obtained.



Contacting CPSA

- **Verify CPSA has your current email address**
 - Update your email address using your CPSA Portal
 - Mark CPSA (info@cpsa.ab.ca) as a safe sender
- Watch your inbox and read CPSA emails
 - It's your responsibility to read communications from CPSA
- When you can expect to hear from CPSA:
 - Initial email 3 months before your program ends
 - Annual renewal (October – December each year)
- If you have questions, we're here to help!
 - Reach out at (780) 423-4764 or support@cpsa.ab.ca





Resources & Contact

The Messenger

- It's your responsibility to keep up to date with CPSA news and announcements
- Subscribe to CPSA's monthly newsletter, *The Messenger*
 - Regulatory updates
 - New standards of practice
 - Council election announcements
- Submit a pitch for a future newsletter: <https://cpsa.ca/about-cpsa/messenger/#submit>



Medical Matters: CPSA's Practice Readiness Assessment

Learn more about the steps involved in CPSA's Practice Readiness Assessment from CPSA's Assistant Registrar, Registration, Dr. Michael Caffaro.

Read time: 2 minutes

[Read More](#)

Resources & contact information

- Website: <https://cpsa.ca/>
- Phone: (780) 423-4764
- Email: support@cpsa.ca
- 2022 annual report: <https://conversations.cpsa.ca/>
- Social media:
 - X (Twitter): https://twitter.com/cpsa_ca?lang=en
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CPSA.CA/>
 - LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/company/cpsa-ca>





Questions?