
ALERT

Contains
important
information.
Please keep
on file.

News from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia Autumn 2005

Doctor-Patient Communication Workshop on November 4 and 18

Physicians, medical faculty and senior residents are invited to attend a two-day professional development workshop entitled "Enhancing the Joy of Practice Through Effective Patient-Doctor Interaction" that will take place on Friday, November 4 and Friday, November 18 from 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm in Halifax.

Participants will work in small groups to enhance their patient-doctor communication skills. They will receive guided instruction from experienced physician facilitators and have an opportunity to interact with simulated patients while working through various communication scenarios. Participants are expected to attend both days and will receive appropriate CME accreditation.

The fee for faculty, community and hospital physicians is \$350.00 and \$150.00 for senior residents. Please register early as space is limited. For more information contact Toni Suzuki Laidlaw, PhD at the Division of Medical Education, Dalhousie University, by e-mail at toni.laidlaw@dal.ca, or by phone at (902) 494-6307.

CME/CPD Opportunities at a Glance

Through its Nova Scotia Physician Achievement Review (NSPAR) Program, the College has joined with the Dalhousie Office of Continuing Medical Education to make available a list of CME/CPD opportunities for Nova Scotia family physicians. The choices are varied, and include:

- Evidence-based drug therapy decisions
- Resolving team conflict
- Management for clinical leaders
- Breaking bad news
- Working with angry patients
- Communicating in palliative care

The list is available on the NSPAR website at www.nspar.ca/physician-resources.htm or by contacting the NSPAR program at (902) 482-2921.

The ALERT newsletter is forwarded to every practitioner registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

Decisions of the College's Council on matters of standards, policies and guidelines are published in this newsletter.

The Council therefore assumes that each practitioner is aware of these matters.

CMPA MD Workshops November 4

On Friday, November 14 the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) will host a set of workshops for physicians entitled *Staying out of trouble: Avoiding risk and improving patient care*. Topics will include office-related medico-legal problems, medical records and documentation, obligation to obtain consent, medical certificates, reports and IMEs, and the anatomy of a lawsuit.

The event has been approved for CME credits from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (6 hours Section 1 of Maintenance of Certification Program) and from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (7 Mainpro® M-1 credits). The event will take place at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth. For more information, contact the CMPA by phone at 1-800-267-6522, online at www.cmpa-acpm.ca, or view the conference program at www.cpsns.ns.ca/2005-CMPA-symposium.pdf.

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Registration regulations amended

The College of Physicians and Surgeons Registration Regulations were amended by Order in Council effective August 26, 2005. The changes pertain to the roles and obligations of defined licensees, sponsors, and mentors. Sections 14 and 15 of the regulations have been repealed and substituted by the following sections:

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An applicant for registration in the Defined Register under Section 25 of the Act who is not eligible for full registration, registration in the Temporary Register or registration in the Medical Education Register must

- (a) be a graduate in medicine from a university or school of medicine approved by the Council;
- (b) have post graduate training appropriate for the practice and approved by the Council;
- (c) have a sponsor who is approved in writing by the Council;
- (d) for the initial year as a registrant on the Defined Register, have a mentor who is approved in writing by the Council
- (e) pass examinations acceptable to the Council;
- (f) have appropriate malpractice insurance or membership in a protective association and provide proof of this as required by the Registrar; and
- (g) comply with any requirements considered necessary by Council.

14A

Following the initial year as a registrant on the Defined Register, the Council may require the registrant to

have a mentor approved in writing by the Council for a further period of time as determined by the Registrar.

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A sponsor of a registrant in the Defined Register must

- (a) have full registration with the College;
- (b) reside in the Province;
- (c) be nominated by the district health authority in which the registrant will be practising and approved by the Council;
- (d) arrange for and approve in writing the registrant's mentor required by clause 14(d) and, if applicable, by Section 14A;
- (e) report in writing on a yearly basis, or as considered necessary by the Council, on the performance of the registrant;
- (f) notify the College promptly if they have concerns about the practice of the registrant; and
- (g) comply with any other requirements considered necessary by the Council.

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A mentor of a registrant in the Defined Register must

- (a) have full registration with the College;
- (b) reside in the Province;
- (c) be engaged in a scope of practice comparable to the registrant;
- (d) practice medicine in the same

district health authority as the registrant's sponsor and the registrant;

- (e) be approved in writing as a mentor by the registrant's sponsor and the Council;
- (f) report regularly to the registrant's sponsor on the performance of the registrant and report to the Council as required by the Council on the performance of the registrant;
- (g) notify the Council promptly if they are concerned about the practice of the registrant; and
- (h) comply with any requirements considered necessary by the Council.

The complete regulations are available online at www.cpsns.ns.ca/Registration/registration-regulation.pdf or by contacting the College.

CAPP Update

In late August, twelve of the 56 candidates who completed the June 2005 CAPP examinations were deemed eligible by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia for a defined licence to practice family medicine in Nova Scotia.

These physicians will begin Part B of the CAPP (the initial year in practice under a defined license) in Autumn 2005.

The next CAPP examination dates are December 12 (Therapeutics) and December 13 and 14 (OSCE). Please refer to the CAPP website (www.capprogram.ca) for the most current information.

Be Aware of the College Policy Regarding Clinical Observerships for International Medical Graduates

Editor's note: The College was recently informed that some members may not be aware of its Policy Regarding Clinical Observerships for International Medical Graduates (IMGs), issued in June 2004. For the benefit of members, this policy is reprinted below.

The Policy Regarding Clinical Observerships is also available online at: www.cpsns.ns.ca/publications/clinical-observerships.htm

The Clinical Observership application package is available online at: www.cpsns.ns.ca/Registration/clinical-observership.pdf

Policy Regarding Clinical Observerships for International Medical Graduates (IMGs)

There are international medical graduates (IMGs) living in Nova Scotia who are not eligible for license to practice. Many of these IMGs are preparing to take Canadian licensing examinations or practical assessments of their skill and knowledge, and wish to maintain or enhance their clinical skills under the direction of a practicing physician in a hospital or office setting.

As clinical observers these IMGs will interact with patients and will have access to private personal patient information.

For these reasons clinical observers require supervision by a fully licensed physician. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia needs to ensure that a clinical observer is indeed a recognized physician and has the basic medical knowledge equivalent to a Canadian medical graduate.

Therefore, if an IMG wishes to act as a clinical observer in Nova Scotia he/she must have:

- The approval of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia
- Graduated from a medical school in the FAIMER International Medical Education Directory
- Indicated when they intend to take the Medical Council of Canada examinations, have an assessment of their skills and knowledge and/or enter the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) match.
- ECFMG/EICS document verification, and
- A fully licensed physician supervisor

The permit will remain valid at the discretion of the College or until the observer has taken the Medical Council of Canada examination, had an assessment of their skills and training or entered the CaRMS match.

The IMG must request in writing approval of his/her clinical observership from the College. This must be accompanied by a letter from the supervising physician describing the proposed activities for the clinical observership. If approval is granted by the College the clinical observer and supervisor will be notified in writing outlining their duties/ responsibilities/ restrictions/ limitations.

Clinical observers may:

- observe
- conduct supervised (direct and indirect) interviews and examinations.

Clinical observers are not allowed to do the following:

- make entries on the patient's medical record unless cosigned
- give medical advice to a patient or make a medical diagnosis
- prescribe treatment
- take a telephone call regarding clinical matters on behalf of their supervisor or other physicians
- perform medical procedures
- discharge a patient from care.

Note: In accordance with the *Medical Act* and existing Regulations for Registration an international medical student who wishes to undertake an elective or to act as a clinical observer in Nova Scotia must have prior approval of Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine and the College.

Approved by Credentials: March 5, 2004

Approved by Council: June 4, 2004

“Catchment Areas” and access to mental health services

In February 2003 the Nova Scotia Department of Health released “Standards for Mental Health Services in Nova Scotia”. According to the document, “The standards are intended to provide guidance for quality service delivery and reduce variations across the province, while maintaining flexibility to adapt approaches to unique district, community and organization conditions”.

The College reminds physicians that this document effectively forbids local policies or practices that require place of residence to be a factor in determining access to mental health services (the use of so-called catchment areas) in urgent or emergency situations (eg. suicide threat).

The standards can be viewed or downloaded at: www.gov.ns.ca/health/downloads/Standards.pdf.

Incorporation renewal fees due by December 1

Incorporation renewal forms for 2006 were mailed in late September and are due by December 1, 2005.

If the College has not received the payment and renewal form on or before Friday, December 31, 2005, the permit to practice medicine under that corporation will be suspended and subject to a reinstatement fee of \$100, in addition to the annual renewal fee.

For further information, please call Ann Chipman by phone at (902) 421-2213, toll-free in Nova Scotia at 1 (877) 282-7767, or by e-mail at achipman@cpsns.ns.ca.

Online re-registration available this Fall

College members with internet access will have the option of renewing and paying for their 2006 licenses using a simple online renewal form.

Information on using the online option will be distributed to all members with their license renewal packages in November.

Online re-registration can be paid with VISA, Mastercard, or American Express and involves no additional charges to members.

College publications to be distributed only by fax and e-mail after this Fall

As of October 2005, the College will stop producing print versions of its newsletter, guidelines, policies and annual report. After this point, members will receive College publications by e-mail and/or fax only. All publications will continue to be available on the website, www.cpsns.ns.ca.

This change will enable the College to communicate with its members on a more timely basis by reducing the sizeable lead time required for assembling print publications.

The new e-mailed and faxed publications will be short, concise documents released on an ad hoc basis. It is expected that no more than eight 3-page documents will be distributed per year.

The annual re-registration form that will be distributed in November 2005 will ask members to specify an e-mail address and/or fax number where they wish to receive College publications.

Get consent before releasing records

Following its investigation of a recent complaint, the College encourages physicians to avoid releasing a patient’s medical records to a (potentially estranged) spouse or other individual without the patient’s consent. It is always advisable to secure explicit patient consent before releasing medical records.

French-speaking physicians asked to complete survey

Few of the 37,000 people in Nova Scotia who use French as their first or maternal language are able to access health care services in French. A directory is being developed of the primary health care professionals who are able to provide their services in French. The directory will include 18 different primary health care professions and will be easily accessible via the Department of Health website.

A survey has been developed that will identify the primary health care professionals who are able to provide their services in French. A copy of the survey is already being sent out to Nova Scotia physicians who work in primary health care (i.e. community health care settings versus hospitals, institutions and continuing care facilities) or work in one of the 6 District Health Authorities that have high francophone populations (Cape Breton, Guysborough-Antigonish Strait, Capital, South Shore, South West and the Annapolis Valley, and the IWK Health Centre). Physicians in the above categories who have not received a copy of the survey by October 30 are asked to contact the Centre for Organization Research and Development at Acadia University at (902) 585-1671.



COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF NOVA SCOTIA

Competent Care & Ethical Practice

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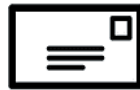
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Change of Name, Address or E-mail?

The College depends solely on submissions from members to keep its address information up to date. For members' protection, the College requires that change requests be submitted in writing. Address changes submitted by e-mail are acceptable if the e-mail is sent from the e-mail address the College has on record for the member.

Third-party change requests are not accepted. Name changes must be accompanied by the appropriate legal documentation. Address or name changes can also be submitted on an *Address or Name Change Notification Form*, which is available on the website at <http://www.cpsns.ns.ca/ChngForm.pdf> or by contacting the College by phone at (902) 422-5823 or toll-free in Nova Scotia 1-877-282-7767, by fax at 902-422-5035, or by e-mail at amombourquette@cpsns.ns.ca.

How to contact the College



Office and
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Office
hours

8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday to Friday



E-mail
addresses

Available on the website at:
www.cpsns.ns.ca/contactus.htm



Phone
and fax

Between 1:00 and 2:00 each weekday,
calls to the College's main number are
picked up by an answering machine.

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