



College of Physicians and
Surgeons of British Columbia

Serving the public by regulating physicians and surgeons



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[Registrar's message—criminal record check: a statutory requirement for all registrants \[1\]](#)

Under the *Health Professions Act*, the College administers the *Criminal Records Review Act*, which provides that a criminal record check (CRC) must be completed by all registrants of the College. The CRC is administered by the Criminal Records Review Program, which is part of the provincial government. It is not a program of the College. The College's role is to ensure that registrants are aware of and compliant with all of the laws and legal matters that affect them in medical practice.

[Read more about Registrar's message—criminal record check: a statutory requirement for all registrants \[1\]](#)



[Removing functionality from the online physician directory—“accepting new patients” \[2\]](#)

As of March 1, 2018, the automated feature on the College’s physician directory, which allows family physicians to identify themselves as accepting new patients, will be discontinued. Registrants and other patient support organizations are being asked to redirect patients who are seeking the care of a family physician to HealthLink BC, or to those applicable Divisions of Family Practice chapters with patient attachment mechanisms in place.

[Read more about Removing functionality from the online physician directory—“accepting new patients” \[2\]](#)

2018
Education
Day and
AGM

[#RealityCheckup: addressing confounding societal issues that undermine people’s health and the care they receive \[3\]](#)

Save the date for the much-anticipated College Education Day, held again this year at the Vancouver Convention Centre on Friday, September 14, 2018.

[Read more about #RealityCheckup: addressing confounding societal issues that undermine people’s health and the care they receive \[3\]](#)

[Opioids in palliative care \[4\]](#)

Physicians are reminded of their obligation to treat palliative patients' pain appropriately. Refusing pain medication to patients with cancer, or those at the end of their life, could lead to allegations of professional misconduct.

[Read more about Opioids in palliative care \[4\]](#)

[PharmaCare contacts for medical professionals \[5\]](#)

PharmaCare has updated its contact information for medical practitioners wishing to obtain information on Special Authority, palliative coverage, psychiatric medication coverage, and the Restricted Claimant Program. The phone line is dedicated to medical professionals only and is not for public use.

[Read more about PharmaCare contacts for medical professionals \[5\]](#)

[Authorization forms for prescribing methadone for analgesia—now online \[6\]](#)

Applying to prescribe methadone for analgesia has transitioned from a paper-based process to an online process, accessed through the College website.

Registrants wishing to prescribe methadone for opioid use disorder must contact the BC Centre on Substance Use.

[Read more about Authorization forms for prescribing methadone for analgesia—now online](#) [6]

DRUG
PROGRAMS
Update

[Writing prescriptions legibly to ensure patient safety](#) [7]

Decimal points can be easily missed on hand-written prescriptions. In general, use decimals only to indicate fractions. Decimal points aren't necessary when writing whole numbers.

[Read more about Writing prescriptions legibly to ensure patient safety](#) [7]

NHMSFAP
Update

[New bylaws and policies now in effect](#) [8]

The Non-Hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program Bylaws were filed with the Ministry of Health and came into effect on December 30, 2017. The new Bylaws have now been published on the College website.

[Read more about New bylaws and policies now in effect](#) [8]

NHMSFAP Update

[Updated accreditation standard on overnight stay \[9\]](#)

The NHMSFAP Committee has updated the *Overnight Stay* accreditation standard for private medical and surgical facilities in BC.

[Read more about Updated accreditation standard on overnight stay \[9\]](#)

DAP Update

[Changes in structure, staffing or leadership must be reported \[10\]](#)

According to section 5-30 of the College [Bylaws](#) [11], an organization, health authority or diagnostic facility must report any significant changes to the Diagnostic Accreditation Program.

[Read more about Changes in structure, staffing or leadership must be reported \[10\]](#)

DAP Update

[New spirometer acceptance testing templates—available now \[12\]](#)

The Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) accreditation standards require

acceptance testing of all new or replaced equipment prior to clinical use.

[Read more about New spirometer acceptance testing templates—available now](#)
[12]



[Audio-Digest audio lectures](#) [13]

Listen to recent clinical conference presentations online and on the go.

[Read more about Audio-Digest audio lectures](#) [13]



[CPD events: mark your calendars](#) [14]

Information on all upcoming events and workshops can be found here.

[Read more about CPD events: mark your calendars](#) [14]

[Regulatory actions](#) [15]

- [Rabbani Farani, Nima - December 12, 2017](#) [16]

[Read more about Regulatory actions](#) [15]

The *College Connector* is sent to every current registrant of the College. Decisions of the College on matters of standards and guidelines are contained in this publication. The College therefore assumes that each registrant is aware of these matters. Questions or comments about this publication should be directed to communications@cpsbc.ca [17].

To download a PDF version of this issue, please click [here](#) [18].

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[10] <https://www.cpsbc.ca/for-physicians/college-connector/2018-V06-01/10>

[11] <https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/HPA-Bylaws.pdf>

[12] <https://www.cpsbc.ca/for-physicians/college-connector/2018-V06-01/11>

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<https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/disciplinary-actions/2017-12-12-Rabbani-Farani.pdf>

[17] <mailto:communications@cpsbc.ca>

[18] <https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/CC-2018-V06-01.pdf>