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June 01, 2013 | Posted in: [Announcements](#) [1]

## Record retention: 16 years

### College Bylaw Amendment Section 3-6(2)

Effective June 1, 2013 British Columbia's revised *Limitation Act* comes into force, which includes an increase to the retention of medical records from six to fifteen years for all claims against medical practitioners.

As such, section 3-6(2) of the Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act* has been amended to reflect the change to the *Limitation Act*. Registrants are now expected to retain medical records for a period of sixteen years.

#### **Storage and retention of medical practice records**

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|-----|-----|---|
| 3-6 | (1) | A registrant must ensure the safe and secure storage of all records.  |
|     | (2) | Records are required to be retained for a minimum period of sixteen years from either the date of last entry or from the age of majority, whichever is late, except as otherwise required by law. |

## Resources

- [Medical Record Retention and Limitation Act--Q&A](#) [2]
- [Limitation Act \(Ministry of Justice\)](#) [3]

Additionally, updates have been made to the following *Professional Standards and Guidelines*:

- Electronic Medical Records
- Medical Records in Private Physicians' Offices

*The above guidelines have been replaced by the [Medical Records](#) [4] standard.*

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**Links**

[1] [https://www.cpsbc.ca/news?field\\_news\\_category\\_tid=1](https://www.cpsbc.ca/news?field_news_category_tid=1)

[2]

<https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/2013-02-13-Addressing-concerns-re-College-bylaw-amendments.pdf>

[3] <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/legislation/limitation-act/2012.htm>

[4] <https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Medical-Records.pdf>