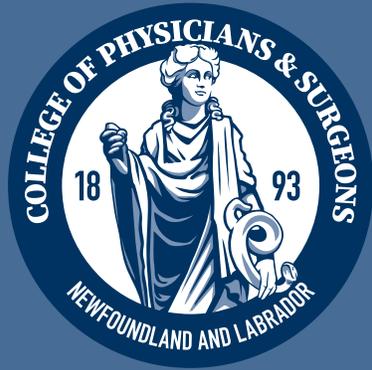


DEC 2020 UPDATE



JANUARY 15

FINAL DEADLINE:
Licence
renewal
(2021 licences)

JANUARY 22

DEADLINE:
for input on revised
and new Standards
of Practice (see p. 2)

MARCH 13

Q1 Council Meeting
8:30 a.m.
Location TBD

2020 Q4 COUNCIL MEETING

As meeting restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic continue, the College once again held its quarterly Council meeting virtually. All Council members attended the Q4 meeting on December 12 remotely. Highlights included the following.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Two virtual sessions were held Friday evening, December 11. Council first heard Meghan Gardner, Operational Director/Strategic Partnerships at Johnson, speak on “**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.**” Next, Vernon Curran, Associate Dean of Educational Development in the MUN Faculty of Medicine, and his colleagues, gave an overview of the new program **Culturally Safe Health Care for Indigenous Patients in NL.**

REPORTS

- **Complaints:** Updates on pending Adjudication Tribunal hearings and outstanding appeals, as well as complaints reports for the first three quarters of 2020, were presented to Council.
- **Licensing:** An update on licence renewals for 2021 was provided; as of December 1, roughly 86% of the 1,455 eligible physicians had renewed their licences. J. Osmond also spoke about progress on the

Practice Ready Assessment-NL (PRA-NL) program.

- **Operations:** Progress on the 2020 Operations Plan was summarized and the 2021 Operations Plan was presented to Council. It was also noted that **office renovations were completed** on September 20 and actual costs were under budget by approximately \$45,000.
- **Quality Assurance:** Brian Bennett, Director of Quality, gave updates on active physician files that the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) is managing; an updated edition of the **draft QAC handbook** and of the **Physician Peer Review-NL (PPR-NL)** program were also provided.
- **Finance:** Finance committee matters were discussed; the **final 2021 budget** was approved.

A Governance committee report was also presented (see “Standards of Practice,” next page.)

ATLANTIC HARMONIZATION

Council was informed about progress coming out of the October Council of Atlantic Premiers meeting, at which harmonization efforts by the medical regulatory authorities of three Atlantic provinces were reviewed. **Work on the initiative continues.**

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Registrar Linda Inkpen updated Council on her own and/or College participation in key external meetings. They included Canadian Resident Matching Service (**CaRMS**) and the Federation of Medical Regulators (**FMRAC**) board meetings. She noted that the Medical Council of Canada (**MCC**) has completed its major 2020 governance review. A preliminary meeting with the Task Force on Health, Health Accord NL, also took place.

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PROGRAM ROLL-OUT UPDATE

PHYSICIAN PEER REVIEW

Peer review helps physicians maintain a standard level of practice and identify opportunities for practice improvement. PPR-NL is the College's new peer-review program. It is a collaborative quality-assurance process that will respond to physicians' individual practice needs.

The College began a pilot of PPR-NL in February 2020. PPR-NL will launch in January 2021, beginning with Family Medicine. Peer reviewers will assess physicians' practices to ensure that they adhere to established standards. Peer reviewers will

also help physicians reflect on their own practices to identify continuing professional development learning opportunities.

The College is currently seeking expressions of interest from Family Physicians interested in acting as a peer reviewer with the PPR-NL program.

For additional information regarding this opportunity, please contact Brian Bennett, Director of Quality, by email at bbennett@cpsnl.ca, or by telephone at (709) 726-8546.

IN COLLEGE NEWS

CHANGES ON CPSNL COUNCIL

Elizabeth Bannister resigned her Council seat on November 29. The College extends its sincere thanks to Dr. Bannister for her five years of service and wishes her the best in her future endeavours. At the end of the Q4 Council meeting, **Gail Hamilton**, public member, was appointed Council chair for 2021 and **Rebecca Rudofsky**, physician member, vice-chair. Committee composition for 2021 was also determined. Full details available on cpsnl.ca.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE NEWS, CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

At the Q4 meeting, Council approved two by-law amendments. **By-law 4** now reads: All licensed physicians are required to designate a practice address, including mailing address and telephone number, for publication on the College Register. **By-law 7** was amended to: Council can adopt a tariff of costs to be used as guidance for establishing the costs of the College for expenses incurred for a hearing before an Adjudication Tribunal.

Seeking consultation, Council **approved for circulation to College members** and other interested parties one new Standard of Practice (Continuity of Care) and two amended Standards (Boundary Violations and Closure of Practice). Feedback will be discussed at the March Council meeting.

TWO NEW LICENCE TYPES?

The College is requesting two new licence types be created: **Associate Physician** and **Clinical Assistant**. Doing so will necessitate changes to the *Medical Act, 2011*; work is in progress with the NL government.

CPSNL COVID RESPONSE

As elsewhere, the resilience of the College—as an organization and as individuals—has been supremely tested over the last nine months, and our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges and lessons learned remain under constant audit and revision. College work continues unabated, however, and we expect to complete our 2020 work plan while managing our new and often compressed timelines.

There is broad workplace understanding that remote work is stressful for all employees some of the time; **staff health** continues to be a College work priority, as do staff communications.

The College's physical offices cautiously opened on September 8. Since then, public health guidelines and directives have been followed and the office remains an "**agile and creative workplace.**"

We have worked through a busy time supported by Council and by each other. The coming winter will undoubtedly augur more change.

Mandate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

"The college is authorized to regulate the practice of medicine and the medical profession in the public interest."

As established by the *Medical Act, 2011*