

## Scope of Practice during COVID-19

### 1. Due to the shift of medical priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic, my area of practice is not as busy. Can I practice outside of my scope of practice?

Yes, it may be necessary for you to temporarily practice outside your scope of practice if you are using your professional judgement and skills and if not providing medical care may result in greater risk or harm to the patient or public than providing it.

Exercise your professional and clinical judgement and work with health care colleagues to determine what appropriate medical care you can provide to persons in need of care. Provide care in accordance with provincial and hospital emergency management plans. But only engage in medical care that in your reasonable and professional judgment is safe and appropriate.

CMPA will provide coverage if care is outside your usual scope of practice. <https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/covid19>

### 2. Help me with some realistic examples of practicing outside a scope of practice now?

Here are some examples to guide you.

- A surgeon with cancelled surgeries may help in the Emergency Department by performing procedures to permit Emergency doctors to see other patients.
- A physician assistant who works in surgery may be asked to support patient care in the Emergency Department.
- A dermatologist with cancelled elective procedures may volunteer to screen and test patients at the COVID clinics.
- A family doctor could support patient care within an Urgent Care department.
- A neurologist who has reduced patient volume because their office is located in a hospital that is restricting non-urgent patient care could help on an internal medicine ward.

### 3. Once the major public health emergency is over, can I continue to practise outside of my scope of practice?

No.