

## Other Important Information during COVID-19

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- 1. I want to engage with my colleagues, patients, and the public through social media or email to draw attention to the pandemic, what do I need to be thinking about when I do so?**

Members are reminded to be aware of how their actions on social media or through other forms of communication may be viewed, especially during a pandemic. Your comments or actions can lead to harm if you are providing a medical opinion that does not align with information being provided by public health officials and all levels of government. It is essential that the public receive a consistent and clear message.

Some general recommendations that support appropriate conduct in these forums includes acting in a manner that upholds your own reputation, the reputation of the profession, and maintains the public trust. It is important to be mindful of the important position you hold in society, which is magnified by the current pandemic, and the need to be thoughtful regarding the information you share on social media or through other means.

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### Mass Emails to Patients with General Information

- 1. Are there any concerns with mass emails to patients being sent?**

It is possible that some physicians will be sending mass emails to patients with instructions about how to reach them during this time, or to provide advice about virtual appointments.

All mass emails MUST utilize the blind carbon copy (BCC) function such that the recipients are unknown to each other.

It has come to the attention of the College that problems may exist when using Microsoft's Windows Mail program to send mass emails originating from a web-based email address (e.g. Yahoo or Gmail accounts). The BCC function of the web-based email

may not be compatible with Windows Mail, resulting in all recipients being listed in the “To” category. The result is that all recipients will see the names and emails of everyone despite the intention for recipients to be blinded.

**To prevent this potential breach of PHIA, you should first send a test email to ensure that BCC recipients remain blinded before sending any mass emails from your account.**

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## CME

**With CME unavailable now I don't have enough hours for my CPD for the year. Should I be worried over getting in trouble with CPSM for not satisfying these requirements?**

To support you during the significant pressures you are experiencing, both personally and professionally, CPSM is supporting the following actions by the certifying Colleges:

- [CFPC](#)
  - **Waiving the 2019-2020 annual continuing professional development (CPD) requirements (25 certified and/or non-certified credits)**
  - **Extending all current Mainpro+ cycles by one year to allow you more time to acquire 250 credits**
- [Royal College](#) will be waiving all Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program requirements for 2020:
  - One year will be added to everyone's cycle (everyone will now be on a six-year cycle).
  - While no credits are required to be submitted this year, any credits submitted will still be counted towards participants' current (now six-year) cycle. We are waiving the traditional 40-credit minimum requirement for 2020.

These requirements will be waived and/or extended by the CPSM Quality Improvement program in accordance with the certifying colleges.