



COUNCIL POLICY

Age Triggered Quality Audit

Initial Approval: December 9, 2020

Effective Date: December 9, 2020

1. Establishment

- 1.1. An Age Triggered Quality Audit Program is established by Council and administered by the Central Standards Committee.

2. Authority

- 2.1. The Central Standards Committee is responsible for supervising the practice of medicine by CPSM registrants and may review the professional competence of a registrant in accordance with s. 182(1) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act*.

3. Physician Risk Factors

- 3.1. The hallmark study on age as a physician risk factor, “The Epidemiology of Competence: Aging as a Risk to Competence in Practising Physicians” summarizes the evidence for the impact of age on six associations:
 - 3.1.1. Physical performance
 - 3.1.2. Cognitive performance
 - 3.1.3. Psychological wellness
 - 3.1.4. Clinical knowledge or performance
 - 3.1.5. Patient safety
 - 3.1.6. Medico-legal implications/repercussions
- 3.2. The study concludes advancing age negatively impacts the individual’s competence in practicing medicine. This has been supported by the Federation of Medical Regulators in Canada *Framework on a Regulatory Approach to Physicians with Health Condition and Potential Impact on Performance and Patient Safety* which recommended, “All Medical Regulatory Authorities consider age as a screen for potential risk to competence and patient safety.”

4. Application and Purpose

- 4.1. Upon reaching age 75, every registrant registered to practice medicine (full and associate registrants, physicians, clinical assistants, and physician assistants) must participate in an audit performed for the purposes of determining their professional competence.
- 4.2. The applicable age for the Age Triggered Quality Audit will decrease to age 70 by no later than 2030, to be implemented at the discretion of the Central Standards Committee.

5. Administration

- 5.1. The Central Standards Committee must administer the Age Triggered Quality Audit Program in accordance with the Central Standards Bylaw and CPSM Governance Policy – Central Standards Committee Terms of Reference.