



PRACTICE DIRECTION

Interprofessional Health Care Delivery

Initial Approval: March 18, 2026

Effective Date: June 1, 2026

Practice Directions set out requirements related to specific aspects of the practice of medicine. Practice Directions are used to enhance, explain, or guide registrants with respect to the subject matter relevant to the practice of medicine. Practice Directions provide more detailed information than contained in *The Regulated Health Professions Act*, Regulations, Bylaws, and Standards of Practice issued by CPSM. All registrants must comply with Practice Directions, per s. 86 of The Regulated Health Professions Act.

This Practice Direction is made under the authority of s 85 of the RHPA with specific reference to Part 10 of the CPSM General Regulation.

Introduction

The purpose of the Standards of Practice related to Collaborative Care is to provide guidance to registrants on how they deliver care with other health care providers. When the phrase “other health care providers” is used it may, depending on the circumstances, mean another registrant or another regulated health professional.

Essential Requirements of Successful Interprofessional Health Care Delivery

When registrants are providing collaborative care with other regulated health professionals they are working as a team. The elements of successful teamwork are:

Patient Centric

The most important goal of the Standard of Practice - Collaborative Care is:

Every action or decision must be based on ensuring the patient receives good medical care.

Communication

While engaging in collaborative care, the registrant’s behaviour with other health care providers must be in accordance with *The Code of Ethics and Professionalism*:

- *Treat your colleagues with dignity and as persons worthy of respect. Colleagues include all learners, health care partners, and health care team members.*
- *Engage in respectful communications in all media.*

- *Take responsibility for promoting civility, and confronting incivility, within and beyond the profession. Avoid impugning the reputation of colleagues for personal motives; however, report to the appropriate authority any unprofessional conduct by colleagues.*
- Assume responsibility for your personal actions and behaviours and espouse *behaviours that contribute to a positive training and practice culture.*
- *Support interdisciplinary team-based practices; foster team collaboration and shared accountability for patient care.*

Respect

Registrants must:

- maintain a consistently professional and respectful demeanour
- recognize and respect the skills, expertise, scope of practice, and resource setting of the other collaborating regulated health professionals involved in the care of the patient

Role Clarification

When registrants work collaboratively with other regulated health professionals, each party will have different roles and responsibilities for providing care to the patient based on their respective scopes of knowledge, skills, and abilities. Effective collaborative care is dependent on the parties knowing their role and competence in the delivery of care to the patient.

Registrants must:

- know their role and responsibilities in the delivery of care to the patient
- recognize their own limitations in skills, knowledge and abilities
- know the role of and use the full scope of knowledge, skills and abilities of other regulated health professionals to provide care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective and equitable

The parties must also have a clear understanding of the goal of collaborative care for the patient. Ensuring the other health care providers understand the goal will enable them to best apply their knowledge, skills and abilities to their role and responsibilities. How this is achieved will be depend on the circumstances of the collaborative care being provided but the registrant needs to ensure that understanding exists.

Leadership

In most situations the registrant will have a leadership role in the delivery of collaborative care. Effective leadership is crucial for guiding the team, facilitating communication, and resolving conflicts. As leaders, registrants must promote a culture of collaboration and respect.

However, depending on the situation and environment another health care professional may have the lead role. In these circumstances registrants must understand their role and be respectful of the other's lead role.

Shared Decision-Making:

Involving all relevant team members in care planning and decision-making promotes comprehensive and patient-centered care.

Including the patient as a part of the team is also very important.