



THE COLLEGE OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
OF CANADA



LE COLLÈGE DES
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE
DU CANADA

June 18, 2018

Expectations for Physicians Not Certified in Emergency Medicine Revised

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) share a commitment to maintaining the highest standards in the practice of medicine.

As part of its mandate to protect the public and guide the profession, the CPSO works to develop thoughtful policy that is informed by the patient experience and by the expertise and practical experiences of physicians. In its role as the professional organization representing family physicians in Canada, the CFPC is responsible for establishing standards for the training, certification and lifelong education of family physicians. It is in this capacity that our organizations collaborate to provide physicians the support needed to effectively serve their patients.

Since the CPSO released its *“Expectations of Physicians Not Certified in Emergency Medicine Intending to Include Emergency Medicine as Part of Their Rural Practice – Changing Scope of Practice Process”* document for physicians who wish to change their scope of practice to include emergency medicine in rural communities, the CFPC and CPSO have continued to communicate regularly. As a result of these conversations, and the feedback of many engaged family physicians from across Ontario, we have identified opportunities to further strengthen our respective requirements.

In support of the critical role the CFPC plays in graduating and certifying family physicians, the CFPC will continue to review diligently the emergency and acute care components of accredited residency programs. The CFPC ensures that family physicians have the training and experience they need to provide comprehensive care for all patients regardless of whether it is in an urban setting or in a remote or rural community. Each location presents unique challenges and the CFPC is committed to preparing our members to manage all patients with competence.

The CPSO is amending its expectations document to recognize the experience family physicians receive in urban emergency departments as meeting the necessary criteria to include emergency medicine in a rural practice; this includes new graduates of a family medicine residency program. The CPSO believes that this change will support expected standards of care for Ontario patients, while also eliminating unnecessary hurdles to physician recruitment in rural and remote communities. The [revised document](#) and [FAQs](#) are available here.

Our organizations will continue to work closely on this and other issues affecting medicine and patient care in Ontario.

Guillaume Charbonneau, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President
College of Family Physicians of Canada

SC Bodley, MD, FRCPC
President
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario