

**Subject:** Change to the granting of prescribing privileges for residents entering UBC training programs from 2021 onwards

**Importance:** High

Good morning all,

Following extensive research and engagement with stakeholders I am pleased to confirm that we will be making a change to the way prescribing privileges are issued to postgraduate residents entering UBC training programs from July 2021 onwards. This change will significantly reduce the workload for UBC PGME, program and College staff and should prevent postgraduate residents attempting to prescribe without privileges.

Note: this change will not impact existing UBC residents, resident electives, postgraduate trainees, or postgraduate fellows.

In the 2021 online application for postgraduate resident registration and licensure we will be including the following question and attestation:

### **7-1. Postgraduate resident prescribing privileges**

Postgraduate residents enrolled in a UBC residency program may be allowed to prescribe any medications, including narcotics but excluding methadone, to patients seen by the postgraduate resident under the auspices of their training program and under supervision.

For the purpose of prescribing narcotics, postgraduate residents will be provided with a triplicate pad that will include their printed name and CPSID. Postgraduate residents are required to add the name of their supervising physician to the prescription at the time it is issued.

As an educational registrant of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, postgraduate residents are expected to adhere to the Canadian Medical Association [Code of Ethics and Professionalism](#) and the core principles of safe and effective prescribing set out in the College's professional

standard [Safe Prescribing of Opioids and Sedatives](#). In addition to reviewing these documents, postgraduate residents are strongly encouraged to thoroughly review the information from the College's Drug Programs prior to issuing their first prescription.

**Note:** The postgraduate resident's program director will notify the College should concerns arise as to the competency of the postgraduate resident to prescribe medications, including narcotics. The program director may withhold the residents prescribing privileges until they are satisfied that the postgraduate resident is competent to prescribe medication. The College reserves the right to withdraw prescribing privileges at any time.

### **Attestation**

I agree that I will prescribe medications, including narcotics, only to patients seen under the auspices of my training program. All prescriptions will include my printed name and signature, my CPSID, and the name of my supervising physician.

I confirm that I have added a business address (e.g. clinic, hospital, or UBC program) and business telephone number specific to me to my College profile for use by pharmacies and their staff to verify patient prescriptions.

I confirm that I am responsible for maintaining the currency of my business address and business telephone number.

*To verify or to update this information after submitting this application, log into your College account at [www.cpsbc.ca](http://www.cpsbc.ca).*

All residents who complete this section of the application will be granted prescribing privileges upon entry to their program (typically on July 1) and prescription pads will follow as normal. We will not require the sign-off of the dean or their designate, or the program to proceed.

If there are any residents entering a UBC training program who should NOT be granted prescribing privileges the College should be notified in writing at the

first available opportunity with correspondence addressed to Corinne de Bruin, Executive Director, Registration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Kind regards,

-Vicki

**Vicki Charman**

Educational Registration and Documentation Manager

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