



CAPA - Canadian Association of Physician Assistants
ACAM - Association canadienne des adjoints au médecin

January 4, 2012

Dear Members:

As you may be aware, CAPA has been asked by the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) to submit an application for regulation of the Physician Assistant (PA) profession in Ontario. HPRAC is an independent council who provides recommendations to the Minister of Health regarding regulation of health professionals in Ontario. We were provided with the deadline of January 6, 2012 to complete our submission.

It is CAPA's belief that regulation of the PA profession could offer considerable benefits to the Ontario health care system. It would ensure that there is a system in place, which would emphasize patient safety and enhance the quality of care for Ontarians. In addition, regulation of the profession would foster inter-professional collaboration between various health professionals by creating a clear line of accountability for PAs and reinforce the integrity of the profession amongst all health professionals. As we move closer to a team-based health care delivery model in Ontario, the relationship between the PA and other health care providers becomes crucial for patients in receiving quality care. Lastly, regulation of PAs would assist in further advancing the profession and would ensure that there is a place for these professionals in the Ontario health care system.

Our approach to HPRAC was to specifically request regulation without the inclusion of controlled acts with the exception of special prescriptive rights. We chose this direction so as not to limit the scope of practice for PAs. Currently PAs working with their supervising physician have the liberty to carry out a number of tasks under delegation. The scope of capabilities ranges from specialty to specialty and is quite flexible. If CAPA were to request specific controlled acts under the Regulated Health Professionals Act (RHPA) we could be placing more stringent guidelines on what PAs can and cannot do. In this instance PAs would only be able to perform acts which are identified under the RHPA. By not asking for controlled acts, PAs are able to perform a variety of functions delegated by their supervising physicians. We have asked for special prescriptive rights in order to ensure that we have the authority to prescribe medication to patients. Prior to undertaking this submission, we researched how other provinces that are regulated function. In both Manitoba and New Brunswick PAs are regulated with no assigned controlled acts with the exception of Manitoba in which PAs have special prescriptive rights. Every task is performed by delegation from the supervising physician. Similarly in the United States, PAs are regulated in the same fashion.

To assist with the completion of this application an HPRAC Committee was assembled to oversee the development of this submission. Ron Andersen, Ontario Chapter President was appointed the lead of this committee and played a significant role, along with the National Office staff and other Board members in the creation of this document. During the course of completing this application, the committee consulted a team of reviewers from the Ontario Medical Association, the Canadian Medical Association, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, the Canadian Forces Health Services Training Centre, the Consortium of PA Education, the University of Manitoba, and McMaster University. These individuals had the opportunity to view the information that was being presented and provide input and guidance

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throughout the process. In addition, we assembled a working group of PAs practicing in Ontario for the purpose of gathering and reviewing information pertinent for the application.

We would like to thank all of our members who volunteered their time to assist us in completing this application. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to the above mentioned organizations for their support and advice.

We are pleased to let you know that the application has been finalized and will be submitted on January 6, 2012. It is our expectation that a decision with regards to regulation of the PA profession in Ontario will be made by late summer of 2012. It is CAPA's intention to keep our members informed of any developments. For more information regarding HPRAC and the application process we encourage you to visit:

<http://www.hprac.org/en/projects/physicianassistants.asp>

Sincerely,



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National President, CAPA



Ron Andersen, CCPA
Ontario Chapter President, CAPA