



COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS
OF NOVA SCOTIA

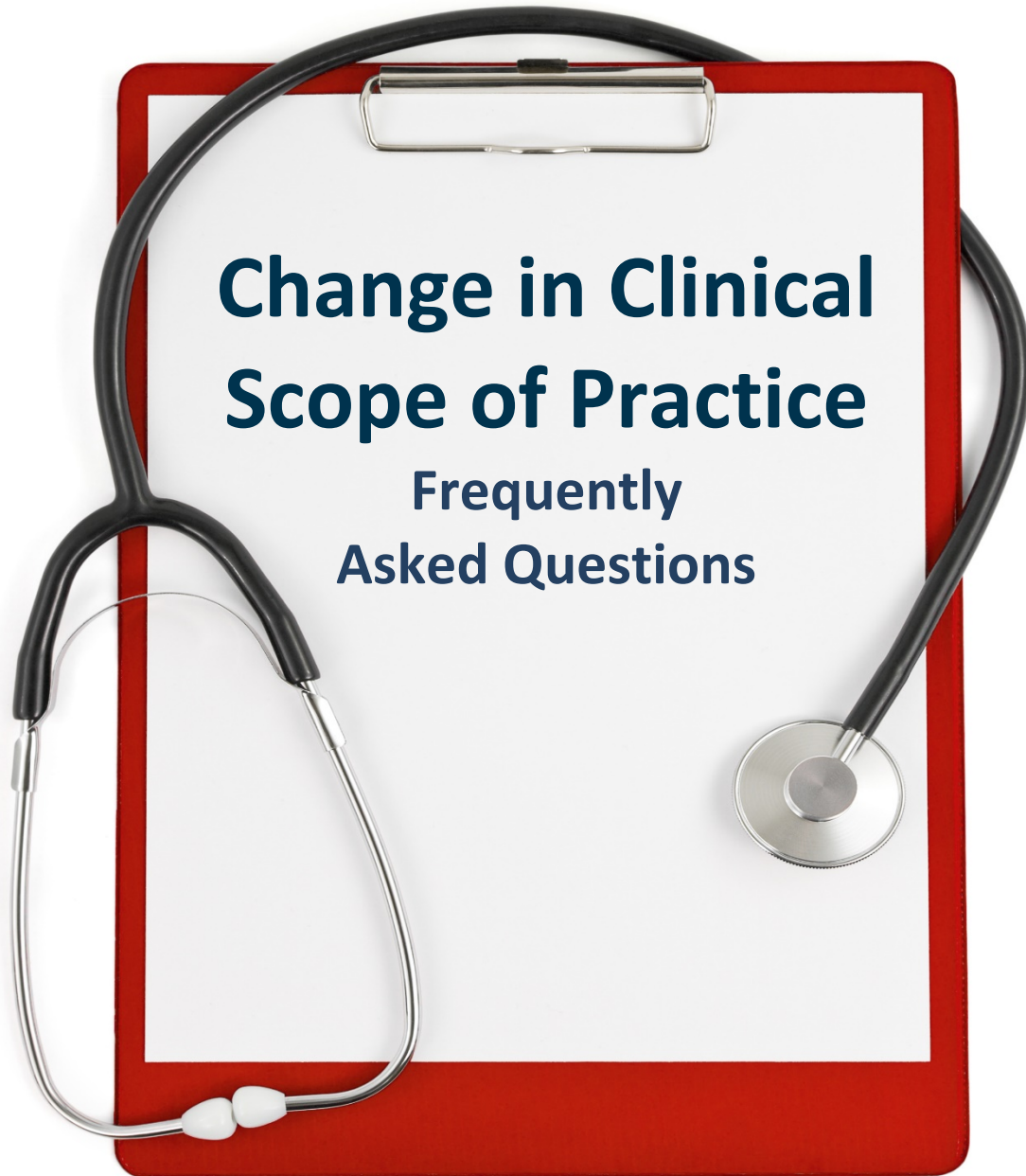


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1. What is clinical scope of practice?

Clinical scope of practice can broadly be defined by:

- the patient population you serve;
- the range of clinical conditions you manage;
- the medical procedures you perform; and
- the clinical environment in which you provide care.

The ability to perform competently in your clinical scope of practice is determined by:

- knowledge;
- skills; and
- judgment developed through training and experience.

It is your professional responsibility to practise only within a clinical scope of practice for which you are appropriately trained and competent.

2. What duties are considered non-clinical in my scope of practice?

Duties that are considered non-clinical in your scope of practice include:

- administrative;
- research; and
- educational duties related to the practice of medicine.

The College does not regulate non-clinical scope of practice.

3. Do I need to contact the College every time I make a change to my practice?

No.

Your clinical scope of practice is expected to evolve incrementally over the course of your career. This evolution is influenced by:

- changing patient demographics;
- the emergence of new diseases or conditions;
- the development of new diagnostic or treatment modalities;
- evolving interest; and
- changes in practice environment.

These types of incremental changes involving clinical scope of practice that are within your specialty can be undertaken through:

- deliberate professional development;
- support of experienced colleagues; and
- accumulated experience.

The College does not need to be notified of these natural, incremental changes to your clinical scope of practice.

4. When do I need to contact the College about changes to my clinical scope of practice?

You must contact the College about changes to your clinical scope of practice if:

- you haven't worked in a clinical area within the past three years; or
- when making a significant or abrupt change to your clinical scope of practice.

5. Is there a time limit on maintaining my clinical scope of practice?

If you've not regularly practised in an area within the past three years, the College would consider you to be potentially working outside your clinical scope of practice.

Please note that this time limit is subject to strategies that may be used to extend clinical scope of practice such as:

- seeking periodic clinical experience in a colleague's practice;
- focused professional development; and
- simulation.

Please contact the College if you are contemplating changing your clinical scope of practice to include an area that you have not worked in over the past three years.

- Phone: 902-422-5823
- Toll-free: 1-877282-7767
- E-mail: registration@cpsns.ns.ca

6. What does the College consider to be a significant or abrupt change to clinical scope of practice?

Making a significant or abrupt change to your clinical scope of practice may pose a particularly high risk to practice quality and patient safety if you change your clinical scope to include an area which:

- is not part of the usual and accepted scope for your discipline or specialty; or
- you have limited or no recent experience.

Examples of significant or abrupt changes to clinical scope of practice include:

- A Family Physician who wishes to practise Emergency Medicine after years spent in general office-based practice.
- A General Surgeon who wishes to practise cosmetic medicine.
- A Pediatrician who wishes to enter Family Practice based on a past rotating internship.
- A physician who wishes to establish a consultative practice on medicinal marijuana.

If you are contemplating a significant or abrupt change in your clinical scope of practice, you are required to seek guidance from the College.

You may also be required to demonstrate appropriate training and competence to the satisfaction of the Registrar.

Please contact the College if you are contemplating making a significant or abrupt change to your clinical scope of practice.

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7. What do I need to consider if I want to reduce my clinical scope of practice?

If you are contemplating reducing your clinical scope of practice, you are not required to consult with the College as long as you meet the following criteria:

- the new clinical scope of practice is a well-recognized and accepted subset of the scope for your discipline or specialty; and
- any additional knowledge or skills can clearly be acquired through your continued professional development.

Examples of a reduction in clinical scope of practice include:

- A Family Physician who wishes to enter part-time practice providing psychotherapy or well-woman care.
- A General Internist who wishes to focus on the care of patients with hypertension.

8. What information must I provide to the College if I plan on making a major change to my clinical scope of practice?

You must provide the College with the following information:

- your contact information including licence number;
- your current clinical scope of practice;
- a list of changes you would like to make to your clinical scope of practice; and
- education you plan or propose to take to support this change.

You may be required to demonstrate appropriate training and competence to the satisfaction of the Registrar.

In some cases, the College will require further information. If you have any questions, please contact the College:

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