



---

## Professional Standards Regarding Commercial and Ethical Aspects of Research

This document is a **standard** approved by Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

A **standard** reflects the minimum professional and ethical behavior, conduct or practice expected by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. Physicians licensed with the College are required to be familiar with and comply with the College standards.

### Preamble

The College seeks to ensure that all research conducted by physicians is safe for patients and conducted with appropriate ethical rigour.

The College endorses the research approval policies of the Nova Scotia Health Authority Research and Ethics Board, the IWK Health Sciences Centre and the Dalhousie University Health Sciences Research Ethics Board.

### Professional Standard(s)

1. Physicians may only benefit from participating in research approved by either the:

- [Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Ethics Board](#);
- [IWK Research Ethics Board](#); or
- [Dalhousie University Health Sciences Research Ethics Board](#).

2. Physicians must only participate in research that complies with relevant national and provincial guidelines including the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans](#).

3. When recruiting or enlisting patients for a research study, physicians must disclose any financial interest or benefit they receive for the research.

4. Physicians must not be listed as an author of research unless they played an active role in the authoring, conducting or overseeing of the research.

## Resources

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia:

- [Professional Standard Regarding Conflict of Interest](#)
- [Professional Standards and Guidelines Regarding Informed Patient Consent to Treatment](#)
- [Professional Standard Regarding the Sale of Products and Services to Patients](#)

Canadian Medical Association:

- [Guidelines for Physicians in Interactions with Industry](#)
- [Canadian Medical Association Code of Ethics](#)

Canadian Medical Protective Association:

- [Medical Legal Issues to Consider with Clinical Research Contracts](#)
- [Commercial Interests and How Physicians Can Avoid the Pitfalls, 2015](#)
- [Physicians and Research: Understanding the legal, ethical and professional obligations, 2014](#)

## Acknowledgements

In developing this standard, the College incorporated information provided in the policies of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

## Document History

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia: **May 25, 2018**

Approximate date of next review: **2021**

*Unless otherwise noted, this material is © College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. This material may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes, in whole or in part, provided that credit is given to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia or other original source identified in this document. Any other use requires permission from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.*