

PRACTICE STANDARD

Changing Registration Status to Temporarily Inactive During an Absence from Medical Practice

Effective: September 30, 2015

Last revised: May 6, 2022

Version: 2.7

Related topic(s): <u>Leaving Practice</u>; <u>Medical Records Documentation</u>; <u>Medical Records</u>

Management

A practice standard reflects the minimum standard of professional behaviour and ethical conduct on a specific topic or issue expected by the College of its registrants (all physicians and surgeons who practise medicine in British Columbia). Standards also reflect relevant legal requirements and are enforceable under the <u>Health Professions Act</u>, RSBC 1996, c.183 (HPA) and College <u>Bylaws</u> under the HPA.

Preamble

This document is a practice standard of the Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

College's position

Registrants who have paid their annual licence renewal fee may request a change in their registration status to temporarily inactive and may be eligible for a waiver or refund of fees (subject to a processing fee). The request for a change in status must be based on a legitimate reason such as an absence due to health reasons or parental leave. Requests for a leave of absence for other reasons are reviewed on an individual basis.

Note: Requests for a change in status to temporarily inactive for reasons such as humanity aid work or sabbatical time are not granted.

Registrants who change their status to temporarily inactive either for health reasons or a parental leave will be identified as temporarily inactive under their registration status on the College website. The reasons for the change in status will not be identified to the public.

Registrants who are temporarily inactive are not licensed to practise medicine. This includes non-clinical medicine, providing medical advice and prescribing medications.

Registrants who are planning a leave should consider continuity of care of patients during their absence. This includes ensuring appropriate access to medical records and to emergency care and follow-

status is changed to temporarily inactive, prescriptions, including refills, are not valid.

Continuing professional development

Registrants who change their status to temporarily inactive must still meet their continuing professional development (CPD) requirements and will be expected to attest to CPD compliance when they complete their next Annual Licence Renewal Form. Therefore registrants who are unable to remain compliant with their CPD requirements during their inactive period should contact the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the College of Family Physicians of Canada to discuss accommodation before their return to practice.

Currency in practice

All registrants are subject to sections 2-7 and 2-8 of the College Bylaws regarding currency in clinical practice and re-entry to or change in focus or scope of practice. Registrants who have been absent from clinical practice for a consecutive period of three years or more, or who have practised less than eight weeks a year in the preceding three years, must contact the College to discuss5(reh)-3(re)8(e)-3(y)10(e)-3(ars)]TEQ0.00000912 0 612 792 ght w7 mP3(ma)4(in)5(com)5(