



Preliminary Consultation on Complementary Medicine

Background

The College's Complementary Medicine policy is currently under review. This review is being conducted as part of the College's regular policy review process.

A Working Group, composed of both physician and public members of Council, has been struck to review the Complementary Medicine policy. The Working Group will evaluate and propose revisions to the policy. Final decisions about policy content are made by College Council.

The Complementary Medicine policy was originally developed in the mid-1990s. It articulates broad statements of expectation for the profession related to three core components: assessing patients, treating patients, and advancing knowledge.

Since the development of the Complementary Medicine policy, the environment has changed significantly. A number of new regulatory bodies have been created to govern professions considered broadly to be 'complementary': Naturopathy, Homeopathy and Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture, to name a few. As well, since the mid-1990s, the popularity and use of complementary therapies has increased dramatically; many patients access complementary therapies to address health concerns, or to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The Working Group will consider these new developments, along with the experiences of other medical regulatory bodies, and feedback from this consultation. Its goal, which is shared by Council, is to ensure that College policy is responsive to practice issues, embodies the values and duties of medical professionalism, and is consistent with the College's mandate to protect the public.

The policy review process for the Complementary Medicine policy is in its early stages. To assist with this process, we'd like to hear your thoughts on our current policy, along with any suggestions you may have for how the policy can be improved. More specifically:

- Does the policy provide useful guidance?
- Are there any issues **not** included in the current policy that should be addressed? If so, what are they?
- How could the policy be improved?

Your comments will be considered by the Working Group and will help to determine what policy revisions may be required. You will have a second opportunity to participate later in the policy review process. Once the Working Group has developed a revised draft policy, all interested parties will be invited to review that revised document, and provide comments before it is finalized by Council.

Have your Say

If you're interested in this topic, we'd like to hear from you. [Review the existing policy](#) and provide your comments in writing by **August 1, 2010** to:

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