



## Episodic Care

**Standards of Practice** of the Yukon Medical Council (“the Council”) are the minimum standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct expected of all physicians registered in the Yukon. Standards of Practice will be referenced in the management of complaints and in discipline.

- (1) A physician providing episodic care<sup>i</sup> **must**:
  - a. inform the patient that the physician will not provide ongoing care beyond addressing the patient’s presenting concern(s), referred consultation, or identified medical condition(s);
  - b. establish whether the patient has a primary care provider and if so, provide the primary care provider with a record of the encounter, including all information documented in subsection (2);
  - c. obtain and document the patient’s presenting concern(s) and/or medical condition(s);
  - d. collect and document the patient’s relevant medical history, drug reactions, current medication(s) and pertinent current health problems;
  - e. observe, examine and document relevant positive and negative findings;
  - f. establish a reasonable differential diagnosis; and
  - g. either provide necessary follow-up care personally or ensure that arrangements are in place for follow-up care.
  
- (2) A physician **must** discuss with the patient and document:
  - a. tests ordered;
  - b. diagnoses reached;
  - c. treatment and advice given;
  - d. procedures recommended and performed;
  - e. referrals and reports made; and
  - f. follow-up care arranged and/or advised.
  
- (3) A physician who orders a diagnostic test(s), performs a procedure or provides a treatment that requires follow-up, or makes a referral to another healthcare provider **must**:
  - a. have a system in place to:
    - i. review and respond to any diagnostic test results and/or consultation reports arising from this encounter;

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**Terms used in the Standards of Practice:**

- *Physician* means any person who is registered or who is required to be registered under the Medical Profession Act.
- *Must* refers to a mandatory requirement.
- *May* means that the physician may exercise reasonable discretion.
- *Patient* includes, where applicable, the patient’s legal guardian or substitute decision maker.

- ii. review and respond promptly to critical test results reported by a laboratory or imaging facility, including after regular working hours or in the physician's absence;
- iii. arrange any necessary follow-up care either personally or through referral to another healthcare provider; and
- iv. notify the patient of any necessary follow-up care;

b. document all contacts and attempted contacts with the patient.

- (4) A physician who orders a diagnostic test and directs a copy of the result to another physician remains responsible for any necessary follow-up care unless the physician to whom the copy is directed has formally agreed to accept responsibility for follow-up care arising from the test results.

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<sup>1</sup>Episodic care refers to a single encounter with a patient focused on a presenting concern(s), identified medical condition(s) or referred consultation, where neither the physician nor patient have the expectation of an ongoing care relationship.

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