

## April 2025 Newsletter

Hello Yukon Physicians,

### CHANGING SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Council is well aware of the shortage of Family Physicians in the Yukon, primarily in our capital city, Whitehorse, who provide primary care in its medical clinics and/or in the various departments at the Whitehorse General Hospital.

Council reminds all Yukon licenced physicians of our **Standards of Practice** that guide you in your medical practice as professional and ethical physicians registered in the Yukon. If any of you are considering a change in your scope of practice, YMC recommends that you review the “**Re-Entering Medical Practice or Changing Scope of Practice Standard of Practice**” which can be found on our website, <https://www.yukonmedicalcouncil.ca> (under the Standards of Practice section).

This Standard of Care must be complied with as written and does apply to any Family Physician who may be considering a change from their usual scope of practice to an area of Family Medicine that they have not provided on a frequent or continuous basis over the previous three (3) years.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

A Code of Conduct Policy is presently being developed by the YMC. We have decided to adopt the **CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism** into our Code of Conduct Policy together with additional features specific to the Yukon. It will be published and released to our registrants and made available for public consumption in the next months ahead. Stay tuned.

### EMERGENCY REGISTER

As there has been some interest expressed lately by some registrants in this little known register, YMC thought that it would include a brief note on its existence in this newsletter.

The Emergency Register is one of nine registers that the registrar of medical practitioners in the Yukon keeps. Section 10 of the *Medical Profession Act* does provide that “*if the registrar determines that a short-term health emergency requires that an individual who is licensed to practice medicine in another jurisdiction be allowed temporarily to practise medicine in the Yukon, the registrar may, without having received from the council the information described in section 9 (3) but subject to the provisions of any regulation under this Act*

(a) *include the individual in the Emergency Register; and*

(b) *impose on the individual’s medical practice in the Yukon any condition, term, limitation or restriction that the registrar considers appropriate.”*

The *Medical Profession Registration and Fees Regulation* part 2 Section 12 stipulates "...that (2) An individual must not be included in the Emergency Register

(a) for longer than 14 days without the approval of the council; and

(b) for longer than 30 days, in any case."

YMC is not aware in recent history of any individuals from other jurisdictions having been included in the Emergency Register. Our Yukon registrar has advised YMC that the legislative intent, in the past, was to create the Emergency Register such that its use be limited to "true medical emergencies", for example, a mass casualty disaster, such as a commercial airplane crash resulting in multiple passengers with critical injuries that would abruptly overwhelm the current acute Yukon Health Care system.

### **THE LOCUM LICENCE (One 3-month consecutive period of time)**

The locum licence provides the curious physician interested in coming to the Yukon an excellent opportunity to check it out. It is a form of medical licence that has been available now in the Yukon for about 2 years and is being used regularly by applicants licensed outside of the Yukon under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement ("CFTA") to improve the mobility of licenced physicians in Canada. It is only available for physicians licensed in other Canadian jurisdictions who do not wish to commit to full licensure in the Yukon yet. It has a quick turn around time between application and granting of a Yukon licence for the busy physician who plans to visit the Yukon for a short time initially. The rate-limiting step in the process to acquisition of a locum licence is the speed with which the regulator in the applicant's home jurisdiction can send to the YMC their Certificate of Conduct ("CPC"). The applicant is solely responsible for the submission to their home jurisdiction regulator of the request that a CPC be sent directly to the YMC.

If following your review of this newsletter, you have questions, then kindly contact the YMC at (867)-667-5111 or [ymc@yukon.ca](mailto:ymc@yukon.ca).

Thank you,



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