



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

# Corporate Policy

## Social Media

### OVERVIEW

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (the College) uses social media to share information about the College and to communicate with stakeholders about topics and issues related to the College's regulatory mandate.

By posting comments on any College social media channel, users agree to the following Terms of Use.

### COLLEGE'S POSITION

The College will allow comments from users to appear on or through its social media channels, unless the College determines in its sole discretion that the comments:

- provide information or opinions that are unrelated to the College's regulatory mandate or the issue being discussed
- provide personal information or information that may identify a third party
- discuss complaints or compliments about a specific physician, or as they relate to a specific individual
- discuss an ongoing investigation
- make false or unsubstantiated allegations
- are or may be aggressive, abusive, obscene, profane, hateful, harassing or threatening
- may abuse or infringe any intellectual property right
- are or may be defamatory, slanderous or libelous
- constitute spam
- advertise or solicit business
- breach or may breach any law, statute, regulation, order, code, standard, guideline or rule
- are or may be unlawful, misleading, malicious, or discriminatory

The College may restrict a user's comments on its social media channels if it determines in its sole discretion that the user is:

- impersonating another person
- allowing any other person to use his/her identification for posting or viewing comments or content
- breaching or may be breaching any law, statute, regulation, order, code, standard, guideline or rule

- is engaging, or may engage, in activity which is unlawful, misleading, malicious, or discriminatory

#### **Content removal and other remedies**

- The College reserves the right at any time, and in its sole discretion, to monitor, block, delete or discontinue access to users whose comments are in violation of these Terms of Use.
- Users of the College's social media channels are asked to notify the College if they see a comment, content or a use that they think does not comply with these Terms of Use.

#### **Disclaimers and agreements of users**

- All comments posted by a user are the opinion of the user, not the College.
- Users agree not to upload viruses or other malicious code.
- Users agree not to facilitate or to encourage any violations of these Terms of Use.
- By posting comments, users are giving the College permission to use and distribute those comments.
- Users are fully responsible for the comments posted; the College is in no way responsible for such comments nor for any information, references, links, opinions, claims, or advice in such comments, nor to collect, review, use, update, edit, retain, return, dispose of, share, circulate, act on, consider, or respond to, any such comments.
- The College in no way verifies or confirms the accuracy of user comments or any aspect of posted content. The College does not review any references or links in any content and is not responsible for any content of any document referred to or site linked.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In developing this policy on social media, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia referred to existing policies of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the BC Securities Commission and the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia acknowledges and thanks these organizations for providing concepts and language, which have been adopted.

#### **Approved March 2015**