

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Physicians  
**FROM:** Dr. André Celliers and Tanya Tynski, COVID-19 Joint Response Team Planning Section Chiefs  
**DATE:** March 24, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Physician specialty coverage inventory

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Dear physicians,

For future planning, we are interested in compiling a list of additional scope you may be interested in taking on, should the system require it, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, our specialist pool is deep in talent but shallow in numbers for any one specialty. In the event that specialists may be required to self-isolate due to COVID-19, we may have a need for other physicians to step in and provide relevant assistance. For example, if we had many obstetricians go into self-isolation, we may have need for other physicians to step in for such things as labour and delivery.

In certain cases, we could be looking at having physicians working outside their usual scope, but with telephone or video assistance from the isolated specialist, or supervision from an on-site specialist.

The CMPA supports this in principle from their website FAQ:

*“Will the CMPA assist me, if I am asked to provide care outside my usual role or location? Will the CMPA assist me, if I am no longer or not yet licensed to practice medicine in Canada?”*

*It is challenging to predict all of the types of medical-legal difficulty that CMPA members may face arising from the provision of medical care in relation to COVID-19 given the unique context of the outbreak.*

*Generally speaking, however, the CMPA would assist a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in Canada and a member of the CMPA at the time the care is provided with a legal matter arising in Canada, even if the matter related to the provision of care in a province/territory outside the member's designated province of work or usual field of practice/type of work category. Unlicensed physicians should contact the CMPA directly to discuss their eligibility for assistance in advance of providing any care.*

*The CMPA article, [Public health emergencies and catastrophic events](#), provides further information about the CMPA's scope of assistance in these circumstances. Members who have specific questions about their eligibility for assistance are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the CMPA before providing care.*

Please respond to this email with a list of additional skills you have perceived aptitude for, with or without formal training. This is to have a database to draw from quickly should the need arise. It will be considered a commitment to that area.

Some examples of areas where a need could occur include: emergency room coverage, critical care assistance (intubation, central lines), labour and delivery, surgical assist, anaesthesia, casting, suturing, palliative care consultation, care of elderly, and more.

Please respond to:

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