

THE ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES MEDICAL STAFF BYLAWS

Clinical Privileges >>

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has established Medical Staff Bylaws and Medical Staff Rules to help assist Practitioners work within AHS. One of the most important sections in the Bylaws related to your daily practice is Clinical Privileges. The granting of Clinical Privileges considers the needs of the Practitioner Workforce Plan; the resources available or the Facilities required for the requested Procedures and access to AHS Services and Programs; and the Practitioner's training, experience, demonstrated ability, and current clinical competence. Please use this document as a reference to what Clinical Privileges entail, how they are determined and how to maintain them. ■

What are Clinical Privileges?

Clinical Privileges define the procedures and patient care services a Practitioner is deemed competent to perform; the Facility (ies) and Zone(s) within which the Practitioner is eligible to provide care and services to patients; and the specified AHS Programs and Professional Services, in addition to Universal Programs and Professional Services, that the Practitioner is eligible to access. A Practitioner is not entitled to perform Procedures or treat patients simply by virtue of being a member of the Medical Staff.

A detailed account of these privileges will be defined by the Practitioner's Appointment and Letter of Offer. ■

How are Clinical Privileges determined?

Each Zone Clinical Department (ZCD) develops a list of procedures for Clinical Privileges with input from its members and through a process determined by each ZCD. The lists are reviewed by the respective Zone

Medical Administrative Committee (ZMAC) who may then make suggested changes to the Provincial Practitioner Executive Committee. The final changes are reviewed to ensure consistency within and between zones. ■

How am I granted Clinical Privileges?

In order to receive Clinical Privileges, a Practitioner must apply for an AHS Medical Appointment. Upon receiving Appointment, Clinical Privileges are recommended by the Zone Clinical Department Head(s). Please see the Medical Appointments Fact Sheet for more information. ■

What factors could affect my Clinical Privileges?

Either while applying for Clinical Privileges or after already receiving them, certain factors could lead to your privileges being denied, suspended or revoked. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Any proceedings regarding the Practitioner's professional status which have resulted in sanctions;
- Any changes in physical or mental health that affect the performance of the Practitioner's responsibilities specified in the Bylaws and Rules, and the safe and competent exercise of the Clinical Privileges granted;
- Any criminal convictions arising from the Criminal Code of Canada or the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act; and
- Criminal charges arising from Part V or Part VIII of the Criminal Code of Canada or the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. ■

How do I maintain my Clinical Privileges?

Each Practitioner, as a condition of their continued Clinical Privileges, is required to submit an information verification form to the Medical Affairs Office each year. The form will include:

- Proof of liability coverage;
- Current practice permit or equivalent from the relevant College;
- Evidence as to the legal right to live and work in Canada for non-citizens and permanent residents; and
- Any professional liability judgments, orders or arbitration decisions involving the practitioner with details about any such instances.

Practitioners are also required to demonstrate and maintain clinical skills and judgment to provide patient care that meets professional standards. ■

Can I change my Clinical Privileges?

Yes. A Request to Change Clinical Privileges can be submitted to the relevant Zone Clinical Department at any time. The request must include the particulars of the change requested and support for the need of the change. The final decision to accept, reject or amend the Request to Change is determined by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO). ■

Will Clinical Privileges interfere with my practice?

No recommendation on Clinical Privileges is meant to prevent any licensed Practitioner from performing medical procedures in an emergency situation where failure to do so may result in death or harm to the person. However, neither Appointment nor Clinical Privileges give entitlement to unrestricted use of AHS Programs and Services and Sites of Clinical Activity. ■

If you have any questions about Clinical Privileges, please contact your ZCDH(s) or ZMD. For additional information, please refer to *“Part 3 – The Process for Medical Staff Appointments and Clinical Privileges”* of the AHS Medical Staff Bylaws.

These documents may be updated on a regular basis so if you are printing or saving them, please visit the AHS Medical Staff website at www.albertahealthservices.ca/medicalstaff for the most recent versions.