

August 16, 2018

RE: Patient Records Standards Enforced January 1, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

To fulfill the mandate to protect the public interest and further improve the integrity of the profession of acupuncturists, Conduct and Competency Committee developed Patient Records Standards, and the Council approved on August 11, 2018 that **the new Patient Records Standards will be enforced from January 1, 2019.**

The Patient Records Standards is available on the CAAA website, at the link below.

<http://acupuncturealberta.ca/pdfs/regulations/PATIENT-RECORDS-STANDARDS.pdf>

The draft Patient Records Standards was circulated to all registered members for consultation in November 2016. The CAAA council at its February 2017 meeting reviewed and approved the revised standards which integrated feedback from members. The proposed Patient Records Standards was presented to the Health Disciplines Board and also circulated to other stakeholders in healthcare for consultation in June 2017. To assist members in adopting the Patient Records Standards, workshops were provided by Marc Raedschelders in Calgary on January 12, 2018 and in Edmonton on January 26, 2018.

The CAAA has been working to complete the transition from the *Health Disciplines Act* to the *Health Professions Act*. The *Acupuncture Regulation*, section 8.1, under the *Health Disciplines Act*, requires that “an acupuncturist shall not undertake the care and treatment of a person unless the person has already consulted with a physician or, in the case of dental pathology, a dentist about the condition for which he or she is seeking care and treatment.”

As such, prior to the completion of the transition to the *Health Professions Act*, please continue the use of the Patient Consultation Form as part of patient records. After proclamation of the transition of the profession of acupuncturists to the *Health Professions Act*, you can stop using the Patient Consultation Form.

Considering members entered the profession at different times with varying background, the CAAA will offer more workshops as demanded by membership prior to the effective date of the Patient Records Standards.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the CAAA office.

Sincerely,

College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta