

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

## WHAT WE HEARD

### What was the goal of this member engagement?

Doctors of BC knows the importance of having and enabling high-functioning health care teams, where health care professionals are empowered to work to the full depth of their scope of practice. While scope of practice changes are a necessary component of the move toward team-based care, we recognize these changes may have broader implications for patients, other health care professionals (including physicians), and the broader health care system. Making scope of practice changes requires careful consideration to ensure that health system efficiency and patient safety are maintained.

As part of a refresh of our existing policy on this issue, we sought your input on a draft set of proposed policy principles related to scope of practice changes. These principles will inform Doctors of BC's advocacy position on this issue.

### How did we seek member input?

We sought member input through a survey hosted on our [Have Your Say online member engagement platform](#).

### What did we ask?



Our survey asked members to indicate how strongly they supported the proposed policy principles on scope of practice expansions.



We also asked members to tell us if we were missing anything.

### Who participated?

**69**  
registered  
members

#### Type of practice

Family physician: 46%  
Specialist: 51%  
Other: 3%

#### Practice setting

Community-based: 33%  
Facility-based: 49%  
Both: 18%

#### Geographic setting

Urban: 78%  
Semi-urban: 15%  
Rural: 7%

# WHAT DID WE LEARN?

While many physicians indicated that all the policy principles outlined for their consideration were important, respondents also indicated the following two are priorities:

- That scope of practice changes should include a meaningful consultation process with relevant stakeholders, including physicians, prior to adoption. (81%)
- That scope of practice changes should be substantiated with sufficient evidence of appropriate knowledge, training, and judgement of the professionals involved. (63%)

## Other themes in the feedback included:

- Ensuring that patient safety is upheld when scope of practice changes are considered.
- Emphasizing the importance of establishing cost-effectiveness for scope of practice modifications, and for evaluations of cost-effectiveness to be broader and system-level.
- Addressing unintended impacts of scope of practice expansions, such as increased paperwork, administrative tasks, or ripple effects on the scope of practice of other health care professionals.
- Ensuring that adequate liability coverage for all parties is established in collaborative settings.

## WHAT'S NEXT

*Doctors of BC will use these findings to inform further policy development on scope of practice changes and our broader advocacy position. The policy statement will undergo further consultation and is anticipated to be finalized and shared later this year.*