

# Physician Information Exchange and Medical Regulation

## Principles

This document addresses the need for Medical Regulatory Authorities around the world to be able to exchange appropriate and accurate physician information in a manner that is timely and readily accessible.

Whereas

*Medical Regulatory Authorities exist to serve in the best interests of the public through the regulation of medical practice by licensed practitioners.*

*Regulation is a role granted by society through the Legislature in the public interest to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public.*

*Medical Regulatory Authorities guide members of the medical profession by establishing and enforcing standards of practice and conduct for the profession*

*Medical Regulatory Authorities monitor, evaluate, remediate and, where necessary, discipline members of the medical profession.*

*In fulfilling their duties, Medical Regulatory Authorities engage in both proactive and reactive measures.*

Medical Regulatory Authorities must engage in the exchange of appropriate physician-specific information between and among themselves:

- in this world of increasing global physician mobility, increased demand for a medical workforce trained outside the jurisdiction, and the increasing provision of medical services through telemedicine, Medical Regulatory Authorities have the duty to ensure that physicians entering their jurisdiction (in person or by virtual means) to practise medicine have the required qualifications and attributes;
- Medical Regulatory Authorities have an obligation to ensure that appropriate and accurate information about physicians who leave their jurisdiction to practise medicine elsewhere is readily available to other medical regulatory authorities;
- Medical Regulatory Authorities recognize that, in the vast majority of cases, physicians readily consent to, and approve of, the exchange of appropriate information among Medical Regulatory Authorities;
- Medical Regulatory Authorities must be able to exchange accurate information among themselves regarding those physicians who do not give

their informed consent and who are possibly moving jurisdictions for reasons that relate to their competence or conduct in practising medicine safely;

- Given the primacy of public protection and safety, legislation that exists to protect the privacy of citizens, including practising physicians, must not impede the ability of Medical Regulatory Authorities to collect and exchange appropriate physician-specific information between and among themselves. Medical Regulatory Authorities need to take all reasonable steps to ensure that they work within their existing (privacy) legislation to ensure their procedures support the exchange of physician-specific information. Where they believe they cannot do so (because existing (privacy) legislation is an impediment), they must be free to lobby their legislature for law changes that permit the exchange.