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CHANGE IN SCOPE OF PRACTICE

I write to correct a statement included in the President's Message¹ in the Summer 2017 issue pertaining to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's Changing Scope of Practice draft plan for physicians not certified in emergency medicine (EM) who intend in future to include emergency medicine as part of their practice.

The college's draft plan does not require that "all but 'grandfathered' physicians working in Ontario emergency departments ... have EM or FRCPC designations."¹ Rather, the goal is to ensure that individual physicians without EM certification who plan to include emergency medi-

cine as part of their practice in any setting (including rural) be equipped with adequate training and experience in relevant acute care settings. For these physicians, the process is similar to any change of scope plan: there is a period of graduated supervision during which the physician is supported by his or her supervisor and the community, and the physician is given increasing responsibility as skills develop.

The college's draft plan also explicitly states that family medicine residents with substantial integrated rural and acute care training experience who want to practise in a similar rural environment when they complete their training are not required to report a change in scope of practice, nor are physicians who

already include emergency medicine as part of their practice.

Last, I emphasize that every case of change in scope of practice is handled individually in arriving at a suitable training plan. The plan is based on the particular physician's prior training and/or practice experience in emergency medicine and on factors such as human and other resources available in the physician's practice setting.

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REFERENCE

1. Smith-Windsor T. Worth the price of admission? *Can J Rural Med* 2017;22:89.