



TITLE: Professional activities that may be performed by residents and fellows

Residents and fellows who hold a training card may only perform medical activities under supervision at learning sites that have been accredited or approved by the Collège in accordance with their level of training.¹

They may only write prescriptions for patients seen in the course of their training. During their training, residents and fellows must always be under the direct or indirect supervision of competent persons. This also applies to house calls, ambulance transfers, organ retrievals at another health care institution, etc.

They are strictly prohibited from writing a prescription for themselves or for a family member. They may not charge fee.

Residents and fellows must practice particularly in accordance with current medical standards and maintain a professional and respectful attitude towards patients, colleagues, physicians and staff members.

Residents and fellows must comply with the regulatory standards set out in the *Code of ethics of physicians*, the *Regulation respecting the standards relating to prescriptions made by a physician* and the *Regulation respecting records, places of practice and the cessation of practice by a physician*.

Note that final discharges from the emergency or a care unit must be countersigned by the supervising physician. Only the attending physician is authorized to sign the summary record. Surgical protocols, final radiology or laboratory test reports must be countersigned by the supervising physician.

Residents and fellows do not hold a permit to practice and are not members of the Order. Therefore, they are forbidden to sign any document that requires the signature of a physician who is registered on the roll of the Order. However, they are authorized to sign an attestation confirming that a patient attended a visit. Residents and fellows may also write the consultation note that will be sent to the physician who requested the consultation. The supervising physician's name must be written on the note.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of documents that residents and fellows **may not sign**²

- CNESST forms
- SAAQ forms
- Report for the opening of a protective regime
- Assessment report for a confinement in a health care institution

- Attestation of birth (DEC-2 form)
- Attestation of death and death certificate (DEC-101 form and SP-3 form)³

Residents and fellows may complete a private insurer's form, by indicating clearly their status and the supervising physician's name. They may also write a certificate of absence for medical reason, by indicating clearly their status and the supervising physician's name. The same applies to certificate indicating that a patient is unable to appear in court. In all these situations, the supervising physician must answer to any question or request for clarification from the insurer, the worker, the lawyer or anyone for which is intended the certificate.

A physician (and hence a resident or a fellow) who has undertaken an examination, investigation or treatment of a patient must provide the medical follow-up required by the patient's condition following his intervention.⁴ It is important to remember that residents and fellows assess patients under a physician's supervision. Therefore, the supervising physician is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the required medical follow-up is provided to prevent, particularly, any undue delay in diagnosis. For this reason, the supervising physician's name must be written on all test requests and he must receive all the results.

Some residents and fellows will do follow-up clinics during their training program. For the purpose of their learning, residents and fellows can be required to prescribe investigations exams and to make consultation requests for their patients. Thus, they must provide the medical follow-up required by the patient's condition once they receive the results of these tests and consultations. This follow-up does not release supervising physicians from their obligations. The latter must ensure that the resident or the fellow provides the required follow-up. As mentioned previously, the supervising physician's name must be written on any test and consultation requests and he must receive all the results.

Sources and notes:

1. *Regulation respecting professional activities that may be engaged in by persons other than physicians.*
2. They may, however, complete the form that will be signed by the supervising physician.
3. Residents and fellows may declare a person dead and enter a note to this effect in the patient's record. They may complete the forms in accordance with their level of training and with the supervisor's agreement but must not sign them.
4. *Code of ethics of physicians, s. 32.*

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CMQ resource: Medical Education Division (extension 5238)

Legal note: This information sheet presents the general context in which the answers provided may apply but does not constitute a medical or legal opinion. There may be specific aspects in each particular situation that influence a physician's conduct. Anyone who has questions about subjects that are directly or indirectly related to this information sheet should contact the Collège at the number provided.