Canadian Colleges of Physicians: Comparative Table of Breach Notification Practices

Province	Obligation to report Security Incident to College?	College Contact Information	Source
Ontario	Yes, but only in connection with events relating to a regulated health professional's: (a) termination, suspension, disciplinary action, or resignation, (b) revocation, suspension, restriction or relinquishment of privileges or affiliations, as a result of or with respect to an alleged privacy breach.	**College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario** 80 College Street Toronto, ON, M5G 2E2 416-967-2603 Toll Free: 1-800-268-7096 Ext. 603 Email: feedback@cpso.on.ca	CPSO's *Mandatory and Permissive Reporting* policy ("Reporting Policy") and the IPC documents *Responding to a Health Privacy Breach: Guidelines for the Health Sector*, *Reporting a Privacy Breach to the IPC*, and *Annual Reporting of Privacy Breach Statistics to the Commissioner*. The Reporting Policy sets out expectations for the professional conduct of physicians practising in Ontario and is used by the CPSO when considering physician practice or conduct. ***Reporting to Regulatory Colleges*** 71. Physicians acting as custodians, who employ, extend privileges to, or are otherwise affiliated with physicians or other regulated health professionals[120] **must** to notify the relevant regulatory body (such as the CPSO) if any of the following events occur: a. The regulated health professional's employment is terminated or suspended, or the regulated health professional is subject to disciplinary action, as a result of a privacy breach by the regulated health professional;[121] b. The regulated health professional resigns, and the custodian has reasonable grounds to believe that the resignation is related to an investigation or other action by the custodian with respect to an alleged privacy breach by the regulated health professional;[122] c. The regulated health professional's privileges or affiliation with the custodian are revoked, suspended or restricted as a result of a privacy breach by the regulated health professional;[123] d. The regulated health professional relinquishes or voluntarily restricts his or her privileges or affiliation with the custodian, and the custodian has reasonable grounds to believe that the relinquishment or restriction is related to an investigation or other action by the custodian with respect to an alleged privacy breach by the regulated health professional.[124,125]

			72. Physicians acting as custodians **must** give written notice of any of the events described above to the appropriate college within 30 days of the event occurring.[126]
Alberta	No. Note: there is an obligation to report to the Minister of Health.	**College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta** 2700 - 10020 100 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5J 0N3 Canada Phone: 780-423-4764 Fax: 780-420-0651 Public inquiries: publicinquiries@cpsa.ab.ca Physician members: memberinquiries@cpsa.ab.ca Professional Corps: professionalcorporations@cpsa.ab.ca	Advice to the Profession: Lost or Stolen Patient Records. Physicians have an ethical and legal responsibility to safeguard their patients' information, including reporting any unauthorized access to or disclosure of individually identifying health information by themselves or their affiliates . When safeguards fail and patient files are lost or stolen, however, physicians have a responsibility to take the following steps without delay: 1. Assess the loss a) What type of information? b) How many patients affected? c) Sensitivity/potential for misuse of the information d) What type of harm could result (breach of privacy, physical harm, identity theft, etc.) […] 4. Notify the CPSA (optional, but advised) at (780) 423-4764 or (800) 320-8624 a) We may be able to offer more specific advice on the situation b) We may be contacted by patients and/or the media and would like to be able to respond appropriately and knowledgeably c) c) If TPP pads were lost or stolen, contact the TPP Department at the College so the prescription numbers can be invalidated and pharmacies notified 5. Notify the patients affected by the loss (optional, but advised if practical) – how and when to do this may depend on the number and the degree of loss (e.g. if the patient's entire chart, including their contact information, is stolen it may make locating them much more difficult). 6. Ordinarily the CMPA (or other liability protection providers) need not be notified, unless the loss is significant or unusually sensitive, but members may wish to seek advice or legal assistance.

			Notification to the Minister of Health can be done through the Notification to Alberta's Minister of Health Form.
British Columbia	No.	**College of Physicians & Surgeons of British Columbia** 300–669 Howe Street Vancouver BC V6C 0B4, Canada Telephone 604-733-7758 Toll Free 1-800-461-3008 Fax 604-733-3503	To assist physicians in meeting their obligations under the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA), Doctors of BC, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC have partnered to update the BC Physician Privacy Toolkit: A guide for physicians in private practice, originally published in 2004 and subsequently updated in 2009 and now in 2017. Consider whether the following individuals or groups need to be notified: • Individuals (whether patients or staff) whose personal information was involved in the breach • The OIPC • Law enforcement authorities • Professional regulatory bodies (such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons) • Mutual defence organizations (such as the Canadian Medical Protective Association) • Other groups based on legal, professional, or contractual obligations In determining whether to notify consider: • Do any legal obligations (contractual, legislated, etc.) require notification? • How sensitive was the personal information? • How many people were affected by the breach? • Was the information was fully recovered without further disclosure? • Could the personal information be used to commit fraud or identity theft?
Manitoba	Silent.	**The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba** 1000 – 1661 Portage Ave, Winnipeg MB R3J 3T7 Phone: (204) 774-4344	The CPSM website does not address privacy breach protocol, nor do the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (from which the CPSM derives its authority) or its associated regulations.

		Toll Free: (877) 774-4344 Fax: (204) 774-0750 Email: cpsm@cpsm.mb.ca	
Quebec	Silent.	**Collège des médecins du Québec** Suite 3500 - 1250, René-Lévesque Boulevard West, Montreal (Quebec) H3B 0G2 Telephone: 514 933-4441 or 1 888 MÉDECIN Website: http://www.cmq.org Email: info@cmq.org	The Collège website does not address privacy breach protocol, nor does the *Regulation respecting records, places of practice and the cessation of practice by a physician* or the *Code of ethics of physicians*.
Newfoundland and Labrador	Silent.	**The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador** 120 Torbay Road Suite W100 St. John's, NL A1A 2G8 Canada Email: cpsnl@cpsnl.ca Telephone: (709) 726-8546	The CPSNL website does not address privacy breach protocol, nor do the *Medical Act, 2011* (from which the CPSNL derives its authority) or its associated regulations.