



# Press Release

## Patients, Colleagues to Regularly Assess Most Nova Scotia Physicians

**Halifax, September 21, 2006** – Beginning in October, most Nova Scotia physicians will be periodically assessed by their patients, peers, and colleagues as part of the Nova Scotia Physician Achievement Review (NSPAR) Program.

“This is a very effective way to help physicians provide the best possible care,” said Dr. William Lowe, NSPAR Medical Director. “NSPAR gives physicians confidential feedback from the people with whom they work most closely and enables them to use that information to improve their practices.”

NSPAR is a survey-based program that collects detailed, anonymous feedback from physicians' patients, medical colleagues and professional co-workers. Completed questionnaires are sent to an independent research firm that assembles the results, prepares a summary and sends a report to each physician.

Family physicians have participated in NSPAR since 2005. Beginning in October 2006, most surgeons and medical specialists will also be eligible for the program. Previous experience with NSPAR indicates that it is well-received by both patients and physicians.

“The best organizations regularly solicit feedback from their clients and use this information to improve the quality of their services,” said Lowe. “With NSPAR, the College is bringing this philosophy to medical practice. One of our members describes it as a 'win-win' situation – patients appreciate the opportunity to comment on the care they receive and physicians benefit from receiving constructive feedback.”

Approximately 120 family physicians and 120 medical specialists and surgeons will be randomly selected to participate in NSPAR each year, with each eligible physician participating in an NSPAR assessment at some point within the next seven years, with seven-year re-assessments thereafter.

NSPAR is a program of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

Further information is available at [www.nspar.ca](http://www.nspar.ca).

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