

# GP AUTONOMY (C5.2)

## POLICY

The practice ensures that all general practitioners in the practice, either individually or collectively, can exercise full autonomy in decisions that affect clinical care.

- Practitioners are free to determine the specialists and other health professionals to whom they refer.
- Practitioners are free to determine what pathology tests they order and from which laboratory.
- Practitioners are free to determine what diagnostics services they order and from where they order the services
- Practitioners are free to determine how and when to schedule follow up appointments with individual patients.
- Practitioners are free to determine whether to accept new patients, subject to criterion 2.1.1 (respectful care).
- The practice will provide equipment & supplies to the reasonable satisfaction of practitioners.

The Practice ensures that its approaches to common and serious conditions are consistent with best available evidence.

GPs in our practice are free to make decisions that affect the management of their patients, in accordance with accepted clinical practice.

In particular, GPs need to be able to exercise full autonomy in determining:

- the consultants to whom they refer
- the pathology, diagnostic imaging or other investigation they order and the provider they use
- what type and frequency of follow-up appointments are made for patients and the scheduling of such appointments
- whether to accept new patients provided that this action is non-discriminatory.

GPs and clinical staff of our practice are consulted prior to the scheduling of appointments and the purchase of new equipment and supplies.

Our practice seeks feedback from GPs and other staff concerning the use of this equipment both formally (in staff or clinical meetings) and informally.

All members of the clinical team comply with their professional and ethical obligations and practice within the boundaries of their knowledge, skills and competence and their role within the practice team.

*See Transfer of Medical Records for Criterion related to Discontinuation of Care.*

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