



## Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Position Statement on Vascular Service Provision

July 13, 2016

The Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery (CSVS) leads and promotes vascular health for Canadians and promotes evidence based care through education, research and advocacy. Members include vascular surgeons, residents, students and any individual with an interest and expertise in vascular disease. Vascular Surgery is a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) primary specialty since 2011 after being a subspecialty since 1983. Vascular Surgeons in Canada are graduates of RCPSC accredited programs and are experts in the diagnosis and all therapies for vascular disease, whether its medical management, percutaneous or endovascular therapy, or open surgical techniques. Although other specialties care for patients with vascular disease, Vascular Surgery is unique in being the only specialty where practitioners are trained in all modes of treatment and provide long term follow up for patients.

Across Canada and internationally, vascular surgeons work in hospitals and outpatient environments in a variety of clinical settings, including those where there are valuable collaborations with other groups of healthcare providers with specific areas of expertise, or other instances where vascular surgeons are the sole providers of vascular care.

Members of the CSVS aim to work collaboratively and effectively with other groups of providers to ensure Canadians have equal and timely access to vascular care of the highest quality, understanding that the specifics of hospital service arrangements may differ between centres. In areas of disagreement the CSVS suggests the following guiding principles:

- Although different practice arrangements may exist in different hospitals, vascular surgeons are uniquely trained in all aspects of vascular therapy and it is entirely appropriate, and consistent with RCPSC training guidelines, that they provide medical, percutaneous and endovascular, and open surgical therapies for patients with vascular disease, with or without the assistance of other providers.
- Since vascular surgeons are trained in all aspects of vascular care, the CSVS strongly recommends that vascular patients are assessed primarily by vascular surgeons such that all therapeutic options (medical, percutaneous, open surgery) can be discussed in a fair and unbiased manner.
- Access to, and high quality of care should be the primary principle of any practice arrangement at individual hospitals, which includes timely access to emergency and elective care for vascular disease encompassing all therapies.