

# Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy

## G U I D E L I N E S

### *The Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*

The College has received several inquiries over the years about whether members are allowed to use extracorporeal shock wave therapy in their practice. Council understands that this therapy involves the use of soundwaves<sup>1</sup> but that the energy is not used to break down calcifications or other hard deposits. As such members may employ this therapy for their patients provided all of the following conditions have been met:

1. The member has appropriate training to determine the need for this form of treatment and in the administering of the therapy
2. The treatment is one which a prudent member would consider to be appropriate having regard to the patient's condition.
3. The member has obtained an informed consent from the patient.

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<sup>1</sup> The Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 prohibits applying or ordering the application of certain specified energies which energies are listed in a regulation under that Act ("Regulation"), unless the person is a member of a Regulated Health Profession who is authorized to use that form of energy. For example, that Regulation controls certain uses of electricity but specifically allows our members to apply energy for electrocoagulation and fulguration. The use of soundwaves is also controlled in that Regulation but only for the purpose of "ultrasound" and "lithotripsy". Lithotripsy is not defined in the legislation but is commonly understood to involve the breaking up of stones or calculi (usually in the kidney or gallbladder).

