Strategic Framework to Reduce the Risks of Substance Use Disorder in Anesthesiologists
January 8, 2016

Purpose of the Framework and Executive Summary
The purpose of this framework is to outline the initiatives that aim to reduce the prevalence, morbidity and mortality associated with substance misuse in anesthesia in Alberta.

This will be achieved through:
• increased awareness of substance use disorder by educating students, residents, practicing physicians and their families, health authorities, hospital personnel and universities;
• the promotion of safer systems of medication management of drugs of potential abuse;
• improved early identification of persons misusing substances;
• early assessment, treatment and appropriate monitoring.

If fully implemented, this Framework will help minimize the effects of substance misuse on patients, families, anesthesia and other healthcare professionals. It is hoped the Framework will foster a supportive culture and environment that encourages the identification and treatment of substance use disorders.

It is recognized that anesthesiology communities in other provinces may also benefit from parts or all of this framework. As well, this framework may benefit other physicians, surgeons and health professionals given that any employee in the healthcare system, not just anesthesiologists, could be at risk for a substance use disorder.

Objectives of the Framework
This Strategic Framework has four objectives:

1. **Mitigate the systemic (macro) risks** that may contribute to substance use disorder in anesthesiologists.
2. Improve the **early identification and reporting** of substance use disorder in anesthesiologists and other health professionals.
3. Undertake **education efforts** to increase awareness of risk factors, and reduce the risks of substance use disorder in the anesthesiology profession.
4. Ensure the **appropriate treatment and monitoring** is provided to physicians identified as having a substance use disorder.