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To the members of CSAPS and CSPS:

Many of our members are being contacted by patients who they have previously been operated on for breast augmentation or implant-based breast reconstruction. These patients have a variety of questions and concerns which they hope to discuss with their plastic surgeon.

We have received information of instances where patients are being told that their surgeon is either unavailable or unwilling to see them. There may be very legitimate reasons for this, such as a change in scope of practice, location of practice or access to hospital-based facilities.

The CSPS and the CSAPS recommend to our members that they do their utmost to provide support and care to their patients, and also to patients whose surgeon may have retired or is now deceased. If a member is no longer in a position to manage the care of one of their breast implant patients, we encourage them to take best efforts to assist the patient in finding alternate care as needed.

The majority of these patients may require consultation only and we are encouraging our members to provide this whenever possible. Should further management be necessary, the patient should be referred to a plastic surgeon who has the capacity to provide the appropriate care for that patient.

In the current environment surrounding breast implant safety, continuity of care is of paramount importance. We call on our membership as a whole to recognize the importance and the need to ensure that patients with breast implants receive the necessary counsel to address their concerns and medical care.

Sincerely,

Bing Siang Gan MD, FRCSC President Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons

Richard Bendor-Samuel, MD, FRCSC President Canadian Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery