



Licence Requirements Update

(May 2021)

1. *Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) Eligibility*

Applicable to: Specialists

Date of implementation: Current

Background

The RCPSC previously acknowledged postgraduate training and certification from a small number of countries outside of Canada (typically Commonwealth countries and USA). Our College had only accepted applications for a Specialist Licence from these countries. The RCPSC can now review specific training from jurisdictions outside of the above-mentioned countries to determine specialty training acceptability. To match this broadened ability, our College's Licence and Registration Committee has agreed to an immediate change to the Specialist eligibility standard.

New Standard

All applicants applying for a Specialty Licence with the College must now provide evidence of current RCPSC eligibility in their primary specialty regardless of training and certification jurisdiction/program.

2. *Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part I*

Applicable to: Specialists

Date of implementation: September 1, 2021

Background

Currently our Province's legislation outlines specific Medical Council of Canada (MCC) examination requirements for Primary Care Licences in Family Medicine (Provisional or otherwise), i.e., a Family Medicine Licence can only be issued to an applicant who has achieved the MCCQE Part I as a minimum. Most Canadian Colleges require a minimum of the MCCQE Part I for both Family Medicine and Specialist licences. There is both local and national disparity regarding this requirement.

New Standard

We are implementing, as a College practice, the requirement that all applicants for a Licence to Practise Medicine (Family Medicine and Specialists) must have obtained a minimum of MCCQE Part I to be eligible for a Licence.

3. Currency of Medical Practice

Applicable to: All Applicants (Family Medicine and Specialists) Seeking Licensure and Currently Licensed Physicians Renewing Annually

Date of implementation: September 1, 2021

Background

Our College follows the FMRAC Model Standard for Currency of Practice which outlines a broad measure of currency. Presently, the College requires all physicians (applicants and existing licensed physicians) to have practised within the past three years to be eligible to obtain, or continue to hold, a Licence to Practise Medicine. Most other Colleges in Canada have defined and applied enhanced qualifiers to this Model Standard.

We have heard from other Colleges, medical educators, and our own physicians, who question the safety of allowing a gap in practice of three full years. While no formal agreement on qualifiers exists amongst Canadian MRAs on this topic, there is general consensus of a minimum of six months practice in any given three-year period. Our College continues to work toward Canadian agreement of Currency of Practice standards.

New Standard

All new applications for a Licence to Practise Medicine will require proof of practice, in a College-recognized scope, for a total of 6 months in the preceding 3 years. Beginning with the 2022 annual renewal of licensure, physicians must attest to College-recognized practice for at least 6 months in the preceding 3 years.

4. Providing Culturally Safe Health Care for Indigenous Patients in Newfoundland and Labrador

Applicable to: All Applicants Prior to Obtaining a Licence and Currently Licensed Physicians (Family Medicine and Specialists)

Date of implementation: September 1, 2021

Background

On February 26, 2021, the Licence and Registration Committee of the College passed a resolution to implement a mandatory training course specific to providing culturally safe care for all licensed physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador. This new accredited course has been developed and hosted by Memorial's Medical School Office of Professional & Educational Development (OPED). The registration page for this program contains all necessary details including the learning objectives, accreditation, registration fee, and author information ([MDCme.ca Course Information Providing Culturally Safe Health Care for Indigenous Patients in Newfoundland and Labrador](https://mdcme.ca/Course-Information-Providing-Culturally-Safe-Health-Care-for-Indigenous-Patients-in-Newfoundland-and-Labrador)).

New Standard

The accredited "Providing Culturally Safe Health Care for Indigenous Patients in Newfoundland and Labrador" learning program is mandatory for all licensed physicians; newly licensed and currently licensed. Currently licensed physicians who will apply for a Licence through the Annual Renewal process must have completed this program before being issued a Licence to Practise Medicine for 2022.