



Changes to Licence Standards

Notice to College Members

September 15, 2022

The College's Licence and Registration Committee recently updated three policies (Currency of Practice Policy, Specialty Practice Licence Transition Policy, and Education Registrant GP Locum Policy).

The Licensing and Registration section of the College website is currently under development. As such, we are including the updated policies with this notice.

Currency of Practice Policy

This policy outlines the minimum currency of practice requirements for obtaining and maintaining a licence to practise medicine. This policy applies to new applicants for licensure and current licence holders.

Specialty Practice Licence Transition Policy

This policy outlines limited exceptions to the requirement for Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Primary Specialty eligibility and completion of the Medical Council of Canada Examinations for Specialty Practice licensure. This policy only applies to physicians who were previously licensed by the College and are applying for re-licensure.

Education Registrant GP Locum Policy

This policy defines the criteria by which a Provisional Licence for General Practice Locums may be issued to education registrants who are enrolled in a post-graduate specialty training program at the Faculty of Medicine of Memorial University.

This and all other Notices can be viewed on our website at www.cpsnl.ca > News

All College communication to its members will be by email. It is a professional obligation for College members to read all College communications.



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Currency of Practice

This policy outlines the minimum currency of practice requirements for obtaining and maintaining a licence to practise medicine.

Preamble:

Licensed physicians must remain qualified, competent, and fit to practise medicine in their defined areas of practice. This policy addresses acceptable practice experience to maintain a licence.

Scope:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum currency of practice requirements as approved by College Council to satisfy the requirements of *Medical Regulations* s. 11(1)(e) for all types of licences issued by the College.

Policy:

To be considered current and to maintain currency in an area of practice, a physician must have engaged in clinical practice* in that area for a minimum of *450 hours* within the previous 3 years.

Notes:

* Clinical practice is defined as direct patient care for the purpose of making a diagnosis and/or providing treatment. Research, non-clinical teaching, administration, and medical regulation do not constitute clinical practice.

Resource:

Medical Regulations (2015) – Section 11(1)(e).

Document History:

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Specialty Practice Licence Transition Policy (re: RCPSC eligibility and MCCQE Part I)

This policy outlines limited exceptions to the Specialty Practice licensure requirements for Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) eligibility and completion of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part I.

Preamble:

In 2021, the College changed its requirements for licensure, such that applicants seeking a licence in Specialty Practice were required to show evidence of RCPSC eligibility in their primary specialty as well as a minimum of successful completion of the MCCQE Part I examination. As a result, some physicians who previously held a Specialty Practice licence from the College no longer qualified for licensure on re-application.

Scope:

The purpose of this policy is to outline limited exceptions to the Specialty Practice licensure requirements for RCPSC eligibility and completion of the MCCQE Part I. It applies to applicants who held a licence in Specialty Practice from the College, prior to the addition of these requirements.

Policy:

An applicant for Specialty Practice licensure who is unable to show evidence of RCPSC eligibility and/or completion of the MCCQE Part I examination, but who previously held a Specialty Practice licence from the College, may be issued a Specialty Practice licence if they satisfy all other College requirements and submit an application to the College within 5 years of holding a Specialty Practice licence from the College.

Resource:

Medical Regulations (2015) – Section 6 and 8(1)

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Education Registrant – General Practice Locum

This policy outlines the requirements for obtaining a Provisional Licence – General Practice Locum, pursuant to s. 29 of the *Medical Regulations*.

Preamble:

The *Medical Regulations* permit the College to issue Provisional Licences for General Practice Locums to education registrants. This policy defines the criteria under which these licences can be issued.

Scope:

The purpose of this policy is to define the criteria by which licences can be issued under s. 29 of the *Medical Regulations*, including defining the criteria which must be “approved by the Council”.

Policy:

An applicant for a Provisional Licence – General Practice Locum under s. 29 of the *Medical Regulations*, must meet the following criteria to be considered eligible for a licence:

- a) the education registrant is enrolled in a post-graduate specialty training program at the Faculty of Medicine of Memorial University;
- b) the education registrant has satisfactorily completed at least 2 years of post-graduate training in that post-graduate specialty training program which allows the registrant to achieve and demonstrate generalist competencies in the areas of:
 - i. Internal Medicine;
 - ii. General Surgery;
 - iii. Pediatrics;
 - iv. Obstetrics & Gynecology; and
 - v. Psychiatry;

- c) the Dean of Medicine of Memorial University must submit the appropriate College form, requesting that the education registrant be issued a provisional licence and confirming that the education registrant
 - i. is in good standing in his or her post-graduate specialty training program,
 - ii. has satisfactorily completed a minimum of 2 years of post-graduate training and has achieved and demonstrated that generalist competencies identified in (b) above.
 - iii. has completed Part I of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination, and
 - iv. has the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform a general practice locum;
- d) the education registrant is sponsored by a regional health authority;
- e) the education registrant's clinical experience since being registered on the education register is approved by the council as appropriate for the purpose of entry or re-entry into a general practice locum, as evidence by the form provided by the Dean of Medicine.
- f) the education registrant's proposed general practice locum is either:
 - i. practising medicine as an emergency room physician
 - ii. practising medicine as a family physician in an outpatient clinic
 - iii. practising medicine as a family physician in an inpatient hospitalist role
- g) the education registrant provides proof satisfactory to the council that he or she has sufficient liability protection or insurance coverage.

Resource:

Medical Regulations (2015) – Section 29

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