



The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

120 Torbay Road, Suite W100
St. John's, NL A1A 2G8
T: (709) 726-8546
F: (709) 726-4725
E: cpsnl@cpsnl.ca

Currency of Practice Policy

This policy outlines the minimum currency of practice requirements for obtaining and maintaining any Licence to Practice Medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Scope:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum currency of practice requirements for all licences issued by the College. Licensed physicians must remain qualified, competent, and fit to practice medicine in their defined areas of practice. Applicants who do not meet this minimum requirement may be considered to have a “significant interruption in practice” as defined by s. 14(1)(d) of the *Medical Regulations, 2023*.

This policy applies to both new applicants as well as physicians renewing their Licence to Practice Medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Definitions:

Clinical Practice: direct patient care for the purpose of making a diagnosis and/or providing treatment. This includes diagnostic specialties such as pathology and radiology, and the specialty of public health and preventive medicine. Research, non-clinical teaching, administration, and medical regulation do not constitute clinical practice.

Policy:

All physicians are expected to practice only in the areas in which they meet the minimum standard for currency of practice.

Full and Provisional Licences: 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 three years**.

Clinical Assistant Licences: To be considered current, and to maintain currency in an area of practice, a physician must have engaged in clinical practice (independent practice or in a role where the physician was not the most responsible physician) in that area for a minimum of **six continuous months** within the **four years preceding** the date of application.

In appropriate circumstances, and at the discretion of the College, an acceptable alternative combination of time in practice, to the satisfaction of the College, may be considered to meet the currency of practice requirement for a Clinical Assistant Licence.

Resource:

Medical Regulations (2023) – Section 14(1)(d)

Document History:

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador: **2022-08-25**

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