



## The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

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### *English Language Proficiency Policy*

English Language Proficiency is a requirement of all physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador to ensure effective communication with patients, colleagues, and the College.

#### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all Applicants for Registration including Educational Registration.

#### **Policy:**

To qualify for Registration and a Licence to Practice Medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador, all applicants must satisfy one of the following as evidence of English Language Proficiency:

1. Completion of undergraduate or postgraduate medical education in the English language in one of the following countries in which English is recognized as a first and native language:
  - Anguilla
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - Australia
  - Bahamas
  - Barbados
  - Bermuda
  - British Virgin Islands
  - Canada
  - Dominica
  - Grenada
  - Grenadines
  - Ireland
  - Jamaica
  - New Zealand
  - Singapore
  - South Africa
  - St. Kitts and Nevis
  - St. Lucia
  - St. Vincent
  - Trinidad and Tobago
  - United Kingdom
  - United States of America
  - US Virgin Islands
  
2. Obtained a minimum score on one of the following Language Proficiency tests within **24 months** of applying for licensure:
  - a. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic module test
    - Minimum score of 7 in each category in same sitting required.
  - b. Occupational English Test (OET) (Medical)
    - Minimum grade of B in each category in same sitting required.
  - c. Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program-General (CELP-IP-GENERAL)
    - Minimum score of 9 in each area in same sitting required.

## Exceptions:

1. Applicants **may** be exempt from this policy if they can provide evidence of appropriate exposure to the English language in their training and practice as follows:
  - a. taken in their totality, the majority (>50%) of their undergraduate and/or postgraduate medical education was in English; or
  - b. taken in its totality, the majority (>50%) of patient care provided by the applicant was in English.
  
2. Applicants **may** be exempt from this policy if they can provide an attestation from the Chief of Staff (or equivalent) of a Canadian healthcare facility which establishes the Applicant's fluency in the English language in combination with one of the following:
  - a. Obtaining the required minimum score in Language Proficiency testing, as detailed in section 2 of this policy, within 36 months of applying for licensure;
  - b. Recent clinical practice experience in the English language in Canada for a period of two (2) years or more; or
  - c. Successful completion of one of the following:
    - i. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Examination in a primary Speciality in English to obtain certification; or
    - ii. The College of Family Physicians of Canada Certification Examination in Family Medicine in English to obtain certification.

**Resource:**

[Medical Regulations \(2023\)](#) – Section 14(b)

**Document History:**

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador: **2023-11-23**

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