



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

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### *Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Check Policy*

The requirement that all physicians are of good character is intended to protect the public and maintain high ethical standards in the medical profession by ensuring that all licensed physicians show respect for the profession and their patients and conduct themselves with honesty and integrity. A Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector check is a component of satisfying the good character requirement.

#### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all applicants for a Licence to Practice Medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador.

#### **Policy:**

A Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector check (CRC VS) must be submitted and reviewed by the College as part of the application process.

The College will accept a CRC VS from the local police department or equivalent of the jurisdiction in which the applicant currently resides. If residing within Canada, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police CRC VS will be accepted regardless of the home province of the applicant.

The College considers a CRC VS to be valid for one (1) year from the date in which it was issued and must be valid at the time of the issuance of a Licence to Practice Medicine.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Should an international jurisdiction not issue a Vulnerable Sector Check with the Criminal Record Check, the applicant may complete a College approved form attesting that they do not have a criminal history relating to the vulnerable sector, nor have they received a pardon for a criminal conviction relating to the vulnerable sector.
2. An applicant may be issued a Licence to Practice Medicine with an expired CRC VS if the applicant has provided evidence a new CRC VS has been requested in addition to one of the following:
  - i. the applicant is currently licensed in another Canadian Jurisdiction;
  - ii. the applicant held an annual licence from the College within the previous 12 months; or
  - iii. the applicant's CRC VS on file with CPSNL is no more than 2 years old.

The updated CRC VS must be submitted to the College immediately upon its availability.

**Resource:**

*Medical Regulations (2023)* – Section 14(h)

**Document History:**

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador: **2024-08-29**

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