



English Language Proficiency is a requirement of all College Registrants 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 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:
 - 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 English Language Proficiency tests written 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 no more than two (2) combined sittings of the same language test.
 - b. Occupational English Test (OET) (Medical)
 - Minimum grade of B in each category in no more than two (2) combined sittings of the same language test.
 - c. Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program-General (CELP-GENERAL)
 - Minimum score of 9 in each area in no more than two (2) combined sittings of the same language test.

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 in their practice of medicine 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 English 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.

3. Applicants **may** be exempt from this policy if they can provide evidence that they hold a Licence to Practice Medicine in another Canadian jurisdiction and demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the College, that they practice primarily in the English Language within that jurisdiction.

References

[Medical Regulations, 2023](#) – Section 14(c)

Document History

Approved by the Council of the CPSNL	November 23, 2023
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