



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:
 - 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.

Resource:

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

Document History:

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