



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

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### *Non-Practicing Status Policy*

Any physician who holds a Licence to Practice Medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador with non-practicing status is not permitted to practice medicine in any capacity while holding this status.

#### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all physicians who hold non-practicing status and to any practicing physician who wishes to apply for voluntary non-practicing status.

#### **Policy:**

Physicians holding non-practicing status are not permitted to practice medicine in any capacity, including:

- i. Participating in patient encounters;
- ii. Admitting patients to the hospital;
- iii. Billing for services;
- iv. Prescribing or refilling medications;
- v. Ordering investigations;
- vi. Review of diagnostic testing;
- vii. Accessing Electronic Health and/or Electronic Medical Records

#### Voluntary Non-Practicing Status:

A physician may take a leave of absence from medical practice and suspend their professional liability coverage. As physicians are not permitted to practice medicine without professional liability coverage, their practicing status must be changed to "non-practicing" should professional liability coverage be suspended during the leave.

A physician applying for non-practicing status must:

- i. Submit a completed *Non-Practicing Application* form to the College.
- ii. Pay the required administrative processing fee; and
- iii. Submit a *Closure of Practice* form if going on leave for a period more than three (3) months.

A physician holding non-practicing status may return to active practicing status if:

- i. A request is made to the Licensing Department to change their practicing status to active;
- ii. Proof of professional liability coverage is provided to the College; and
- iii. All other applicable licensing criteria are satisfied.

A physician may renew their licence with non-practicing status if all applicable licensing criteria are satisfied.

**Resource:**

*Medical Regulations (2023)* – Section 17(2)(d)

**Document History:**

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

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