



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

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### *Re-Entry to Practice and/or Change of Scope of Practice Policy*

All physicians who wish to re-enter practice or change their scope of practice must demonstrate their competency in the areas in which they intend to practice.

#### **Scope:**

This policy applies to prospective and currently licensed physicians who do not satisfy the [Currency of Practice Policy](#); and to currently licensed physicians wishing to significantly expand their scope of practice or return to a scope of practice in which they have not maintained currency. **This policy may not be used in place of a formal postgraduate training program to change a physician's discipline of practice.**

#### **Definitions:**

**Scope of Practice:** The activities in which an individual physician is permitted to perform within a specific discipline at a particular point in time. These activities shall be based on appropriate education, training, and experience.

**Change in Scope of Practice:** A change in scope of practice (for the purpose of this policy) within a licensed discipline occurs when there has been an expansion of professional activities, responsibilities, procedures performed, treatments provided, and/or services provided. A change in scope of practice also occurs when a physician wishes to re-enter practice after a period of time in which their recent practice experience does not satisfy the College's currency of practice requirements for the scope in which they previously practised.

#### **Policy:**

**All physicians are expected to only practice within the areas in which they are educated, experienced, and competent. A failure to comply with this expectation may be considered professional misconduct.**

The College will review each application to determine if the applicant meets the minimum criteria to submit an assessment proposal for the purposes of re-entry to practice or change of scope of practice.

Proposals for a re-entry to/change of scope of practice assessment shall only be considered from physicians who:

1. Previously held, or currently holds, a Licence to Practice Medicine in a Canadian jurisdiction;
  2. Will be eligible for an unrestricted Full or Provisional Licence upon successful completion of the assessment;
- and

3. Provide evidence that they will obtain sponsorship upon the successful completion of the assessment if applicable.

In addition to the review of a complete and comprehensive training and practice history, including duties and responsibilities, of the physician submitting the request for re-entry to practice/change of scope of practice, the College shall consider some or all of the following in determining if a re-entry to practice assessment is appropriate:

1. Previous performance in practice, including any disciplinary actions;
2. Reasons for the physician's absence from practice;
3. Intended scope of practice;
4. Risk to patients;
5. Length of time away from practice; and
6. Degree to which the discipline/scope of practice has advanced during the absence.

Should the applicant meet the minimum criteria to submit an assessment proposal for the purposes of re-entry to/change of scope of practice, the applicant will be referred to the College's Quality department for the proposal and assessment process.

All fees associated with the application, proposal, assessment, supervision, and any required training are the responsibility of the physician applying to re-enter/change their scope of practice.

**Resource:**

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

**Document History:**

Approved by the Council of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador: **2024-11-21**

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