



Re-Entry to Practice

Licensing Policy

All physicians who wish to re-enter practice or return to a scope of practice for which currency has not been maintained, 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 who wish to 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

Re-Entry to Practice	Physicians re-enter clinical practice where they do not meet CPSNL's currency of practice requirements and have successfully completed an assessment or training to the satisfaction of CPSNL.
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) occurs when a physician wishes to return to a part of their discipline after a period of time in which their recent practice experience does not satisfy CPSNL's currency of practice requirements for the scope in which they previously practiced.

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.

It is understood that a physician's scope of practice gradually evolves during their career because of changing demographics, new diseases or conditions, new diagnostic and treatment methods, and changes in the practice environment. This policy is not intended to apply to these types of changes.

CPSNL will review each application to determine if the applicant requires an assessment, and if the applicant meets the minimum criteria to submit an assessment proposal for the purposes of re-entry to practice or return to a scope of practice for which currency has not been maintained.

Proposals for a re-entry to/ return to a 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 a medical 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/ return to a scope of practice, CPSNL 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/ return to a scope of practice, the applicant will be referred to CPSNL'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.

References

[Medical Regulations, 2023](#) – Section 14(d)
[CPSNS Change in clinical scope of practice: requirements](#)

Document History

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