



The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

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Clinical Assistant Licence Policy

A registrant licensed with a Clinical Assistant Licence will provide medical services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician within Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services.

Scope:

This policy sets the criteria in which an applicant may be eligible for a Clinical Assistant Licence.

Policy:

Clinical Assistants shall only provide medical services in a College approved clinical division or department within a tertiary or secondary care setting in Newfoundland and Labrador. A Clinical Assistant shall not act as a most responsible physician (MRP) but as an extension of a supervising physician. There is presently no pathway from Clinical Assistant to independent practice. Clinical Assistants must be registered and licensed with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Eligibility

All candidates for a Clinical Assistant Licence must:

- a. meet the requirements set out in Section 14 of the *Medical Regulations, 2023*;
- b. have an approved medical degree:
 - a degree from a World Directory of Medical Schools recognized university or school of medicine.
- c. have an acceptable combination of postgraduate training and experience:
 - i. completed postgraduate training program that is discipline appropriate and is a minimum of 12 months in duration, and two years practice experience (must be institutional based clinical services providing direct patient care interaction in the acute care setting); **or**
 - ii. completed postgraduate training program that is discipline appropriate and is two years or more in duration. No practice experience is required for eligibility.
- d. be registered or recognized in their area of practice in a jurisdiction to the satisfaction of the College;
- e. have successfully completed an examination as defined in the *Examinations Required and Approved by Council Policy*;
- f. meet the currency of practice standard as it applies to a Clinical Assistant Licence;
- g. obtain and continue to hold sponsorship with Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services;
- h. provide proof of employment in a position where the duties have been approved by the Council; and
- i. satisfy all other requirements in this policy.

Clinical Assistant Currency of Practice

See *Currency of Practice Policy*

Pre-licensure Requirements

All applicants must have successfully completed the **Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)** or equivalent for domain of practice.

Oversight and Assessment

Clinical Assistants will be subject to oversight and assessment by a supervising physician as determined by the framework below. The supervising physician must practice within the same discipline as the Clinical Assistant in which they are supervising.

Clinical Assistant Oversight and Assessment Report Schedule*	
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">one report each month for the first three months (total of three reports)one report every three months for the next nine months (total of three reports)
Each Year Thereafter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">one report every six months (total of two reports/year)

* The report schedule may be adjusted throughout the duration of the program at the discretion of the College.

Employment in a Position Approved by Council

Applicants do not require an offer letter of employment to submit an application but do require continuous employment to qualify for and maintain a Clinical Assistant Licence.

Clinical Assistants will be subject to approval of employment position by the Council as determined by policy framework prior to the issuance of a licence.

Exceptions to Eligibility

1. Practice experience as a Clinical Assistant in another Canadian jurisdiction may be considered in lieu of practice experience as required under (c) above.
2. Postgraduate training may be considered in lieu of practice for determination of currency.

Resource:

Medical Regulations (2023) – Section 11 & 12

Document History:

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador: **2023-06-21**

Update approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador: **2023-11-23**

Effective Date: 2023-11-23