

Registration Policies

SECTION	Registration		
POLICY NAME	Conditions for Defined License for Specialty Practice		
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION			
Approved by :	Approval Date	Reviewer	Review Date
COUNCIL	October 14, 2011	Deputy Registrar (Registration)	

POLICY STATEMENT

The following conditions are to be applied in relation to a Defined License for specialty practice. These are to be read in conjunction with clauses 14 through 17 of the Regulations for Registration.

General Requirements

1. All candidates must be graduates from a university or school of medicine found in the latest edition of the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), and include those schools of osteopathic medicine in the United States of America that are listed in that FAIMER Directory.
2. All candidates must pass one of the following examinations:
 - Any of the Medical Council of Canada examinations;
 - FLEX;
 - National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME); or
 - United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Steps I and II
 before consideration for licensure.
3. Candidates may be required to be interviewed by the Registrar.
4. Training and licensed practice experience must be acceptable to the College.
5. All candidates for a defined license must have a sponsor and mentor.

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Specialty Qualifications Approved by Council

The qualifications approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia for registration/licensure of Defined Licence specialists are found in the Council policy [Specialty Qualifications Approved by Council](#). Entry of an applicant's name in the Medical Specialists Register is governed by s.25(c) of the College of Physicians and Surgeons' [Registration Regulations](#). In order to be eligible for a Defined License a specialist candidate must be eligible to have his/her name entered into the Medical Specialists Register.

The following statements pertain to Defined Licence eligibility for specialists. It must be pointed out that **Specialty Qualifications Approved by Council** is the definitive College policy in respect of specialist Defined Licences and, in the case of any disagreement between this policy and **Specialty Qualifications Approved by Council** the latter policy will prevail. The following qualifications will be recognized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia as conferring eligibility for a Defined Licence:

1. A physician certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC or FRCSC) but who does not hold the LMCC.
2. A physician who is a Diplomate of a specialty member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) who has been in practice or training for the last 3 years and completed their postgraduate specialty training in an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited specialty training program.
3. A physician who holds the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) or Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) of the United Kingdom; who has been in practice or training for the last 3 years.
4. A physician who has attained specialist certification from one of the [29 postgraduate medical education \(PGME\) systems](#) recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPC) for evaluation of training who has been in practice or training for the last three (3) years and has completed at least the

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same number of years of structured, recognized postgraduate specialty training as is required to be certified in that specialty by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

5. A physician who has been recognized as a specialist by another Canadian Medical Regulatory Authority (has had their name entered in their specialist register).
6. A physician who is eligible to take the certification exam of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

In addition, the Credentials Committee will consider the application of a physician:

- who holds specialist certification in their country of origin,
- has been in practice or training for the last 3 years,
- has completed at least the same number of years of structured, recognized, postgraduate specialty training as is required to be certified in that specialty by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and
- has satisfactorily completed a minimum three (3) month clinical assessment in their specialty acceptable to Council.

The committee will require that the candidate has been assessed at a minimum at the level of a finishing resident in a Canadian Royal College residency program.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Certification Requirements for Maintenance of Defined Licensure

Physicians granted Defined Licenses for specialty practice by virtue of their eligibility for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (Royal College) certification exam (Section F in *Specialty Qualifications Approved by Council*) may not remain eligible for annual license renewal once their Royal College exam eligibility expires. This means that:

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Candidates must pass the certification examination of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or obtain certification with the RCPSC through an alternate route, such as the Practice Eligibility Route (PER) to remain eligible for annual license renewal.

If a candidate does not attain the Royal College certification and their exam eligibility has expired, the candidate's Defined License will not be renewed at the time of the next annual renewal unless the candidate requests an extension and

- a) the candidate can demonstrate that extenuating circumstances (such as illness or exam cancellations) prevented him/her from sitting the requisite examinations, in which case the Registrar may exercise his/her discretion in allowing an extension of this time limit by one year to allow the candidate to make further attempts to attain these requirements; **or**
- b) the candidate agrees to undergo a practice assessment deemed acceptable to the Credentials Committee.

Requirement for a Specialty Practice Assessment

If a candidate has been unable to attain the Royal College certification and their exam eligibility has expired, excepting exemptions as in (a) above, the Registrar may grant an extension of their Defined License eligibility allowing one further annual renewal of licensure, **only** if the candidate agrees in writing to undergo a **practice assessment** acceptable to the Credentials Committee. The Registrar will only consider this option if the candidate can demonstrate that they have unsuccessfully attempted the Royal College examination at least once.

Review by the Credentials Committee

Once the practice assessment has been completed, the assessment report will be presented to the Credentials Committee for evaluation. If the results of the practice assessment are satisfactory, the Credentials Committee may recommend that annual license renewal will be allowed for an additional three calendar years. If, based on

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an unsatisfactory practice assessment, the committee does not recommend further annual license renewal, the candidate will be advised that they must wind up their practice in Nova Scotia by December 31st of the current year. If the results of the practice assessment reveal a risk to patient safety as a result of failure to meet the expected level of competence, conduct or fitness to practice, the Credentials Committee will refer the matter to the Registrar for action.

Once granted the extension, it is required that the candidate must apply for an alternate route to certification through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

If the three year extension period expires without the candidate attaining the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certification as required, renewal of the Defined License may be conditional upon further clinical competency assessment.

Practice assessments under this policy will be at the candidate's expense.

LMCC* and Royal College Requirements for Full Registration

Once the candidate holds Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certification and attains the LMCC, providing all other requirements for full licensure have been met, he/she will be eligible to apply for a Full License.

*LMCC (*Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada*) requires successful completion of MCCQE I and MCCQE II