

Clinical Observers

Section:	Registration		
Applicable Legislation:			
Approved by : Registration Committee Executive Committee	Approval Date: October 28, 2016 November 15, 2016	Reviewer: Manager, Registration and Credentials	Review Date: November 2017

Background

Physicians not otherwise licensed to practise medicine in Nova Scotia may apply for an Observership Permit under which they may observe, learn and gain insight into the practise of medicine in this province.

As a Clinical Observer, the physician will interact with patients and have access to personal patient information. The physician must therefore possess qualifications and meet standards acceptable to the College.

Limitations to the activities permitted under the Clinical Observership Permit, as laid out in this policy, must be clearly understood and adhered to by both the observing physician and any Supervisor(s) approved by the College for this purpose.

Policy

An Observership Permit may be granted to an individual who:

- Has graduated from a medical school and completes an application with supporting documentation; and
- Provides a letter of support from one or more medical practitioner(s), independently licensed in Nova Scotia and acceptable to the College, agreeing to act as the applicant's Supervisor(s) according to the expectations and limitations laid out in this policy; and
- Provides a character reference from someone who is not a relative and who has known the physician for at least five (5) years, that is acceptable to the Registrar; and
- Undergoes source verification of their credentials through physiciansapply.ca.

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An Observership Permit is valid for a maximum of three months. Renewal will be at the discretion of the Registrar.

Clinical Observers must function under the direct oversight of a College-approved Supervisor at all times. Supervision may not be otherwise delegated.

Clinical observers may (with the patient's consent):

- Observe any aspect of a patient's care.
- View medical records.
- Conduct clinical assessments (history and / or physical examination) in whole or in part, under the direct and immediate oversight of a College-approved Supervisor.

Clinical observers are not permitted to:

- Write orders or otherwise make entries on the patient's medical record
- Give medical advice to a patient or make a medical diagnosis
- Prescribe treatment
- Take a telephone call regarding clinical matters on behalf of their supervisor or other physicians
- Perform or assist in medical procedures (exclusive of the clinical assessment, above)
- Conduct handover or
- Discharge a patient from care.

Please refer to the guidelines for supervisors regarding confidentiality and consent.