

DEFINED LICENCE SUPERVISION OVERVIEW

Introduction

Within Nova Scotia, a Defined Licence is issued to a physician who is lacking one or more qualifications, typically the LMCC and/or Canadian Specialty Certification. In most cases, these physicians have come to Canada having trained in other jurisdictions. In accordance with the 2011 Medical Act enacted in January 2015, any physician issued a Defined Licence is required to have oversight from both a Supervisor and a Sponsor for the duration of that licence.

Historically, Defined Licences (DL) were not strictly time limited, meaning that some physicians have been permitted to practice on a DL for many years and continue to do so. Most of these physicians are known to have high standards of practice and some are clinical or academic leaders in their fields. Defined Licensees in Nova Scotia exist in a broad range of specialties and a few subspecialties.

Physicians granted a Defined Licence after January 1st, 2015, must work towards full licensure, according to a pathway and timeline designated at the time of licensure. The goal of supervision is to evaluate and support the Defined Licence Physician as they work towards full licensure.

For those Defined Licence Physicians licensed prior to January 1, 2015, they will also require Supervision, with the goal of working towards full licensure.

SUPERVISION FRAMEWORK AND LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

The College has developed a tiered supervision framework that is used for a variety of purposes, including Defined Licence supervision. It is anticipated that the great majority of Defined Licensees will be assigned to either Low or Standard Level Supervision. At these levels, the practicing physician is always considered the Most Responsible Physician, and functions autonomously.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUPERVISOR

All Defined Licensees are required to have a physician supervisor with a similar scope of practice. The role of a Supervisor is to:

- Provide support to the DL physician as they adapt to their new practice.
- If necessary, provide clinical advice on a non-urgent basis.
- Conduct quality checks on practice, typically in a retrospective manner.

SUPERVISION ACTIVITIES

The Defined Licensee will be supervised using a variety of methods, pre-determined by the College, including:

- Annual review of the DL physician's approach to professional development
- Periodic review of patient records and care provided

- Selected case discussion
- Structured interviews with colleagues
- Periodic direct observation of clinical care or procedures

Supervision activities will be documented using a web-based portal, simplifying the reporting process and allowing timely sharing, review and sign-off of supervision documents between supervisor, the Defined Licensee and Sponsor. The Sponsor will have access to all assessments and will be required to sign-off on annual reports.

SUPERVISION FEES

As directed by the College Council, Defined Licence Physicians will be responsible for both the direct and indirect costs of their supervision. The cost for Standard Level Supervision is \$3500 per cycle (annual). The cost for Low Level Supervision is \$1900 per cycle (annual). Higher levels of supervision, although much less common, will cost more. The Defined Licensee will be notified of the Registrar's decision regarding their level of supervision and the associated cost prior to the Defined Licence being issued.

Reflecting the additional work and responsibilities of the role, Supervisors will be compensated. In the case of Low and Standard supervision, compensation will take the form of a stipend, whereas Intermediate and High level supervision will be compensated according to the specific requirements outlined in the supervision plan.

For additional information regarding the Supervision program for Defined Licensees in Nova Scotia, please refer to the College's website at www.cpsns.ns.ca or contact the Physician Performance Department at supervision@cpsns.ns.ca.