

Questions and Answers from Licensing and Supervision Live Event on June 4, 2020

Q: After I have obtained a Full licence, will patients/those searching online be able to see that I was on a "Defined license"?

A: Yes. The College is a regulatory body committed to transparency. Your registration history on the physician search site will display all of your licence types during your career as a physician in Nova Scotia. This information will also be provided on your Certificate of Professional Conduct (CPC) should you apply for registration in another jurisdiction.

Q: I am a family medicine resident. I am locuming in two zones, how many sponsors and supervisors do I need?

A: The College is making an exception for this pandemic licence. Essentially, the College requires that you have one Sponsor and one Supervisor per zone. You are also permitted to have one Sponsor and one Supervisor for two zones. Your Sponsor and Supervisor must be aware and agree to sponsor and/or supervise you within each zone in which you will be working. It is your responsibility to have these conversations with the Sponsor and Supervisor.

The Sponsor must agree to extend their Sponsorship to another Zone. If they elect not to Sponsor you in another zone you must find another Sponsor for that zone. The same applies to a Supervisor. The Supervisor must agree to supervise you in both zones. If they decline, you must find another supervisor in that zone.

Q: Can we have one Supervisor for two zones if our Sponsor does not agree to Sponsor in both zone?

A: You must have sponsorship for each zone in which you are practising. If your current Sponsor does not agree to act as Sponsor in another zone, please contact Marcelle Saulnier at the NSHA, Marcelle.Saulnier@nshealth.ca. If your Supervisor agrees to act as a Supervisor for both zones, you only need one Supervisor.

Q: Will the College define who our Sponsor will be for us?

A: No. The College does not put forward the Sponsor, it is your responsibility to find a Sponsor. The College can provide you with direction on who to contact to help facilitate the process. The Nova Scotia Health Authority has a dedicated recruiter, Marcelle Saulnier, Marcelle.Saulnier@nshealth.ca.

Q: Does our Supervisor have to have the exact scope of practice that we do?

A: The Supervisor must have a similar scope of practice. Your sponsor does not have to have a similar scope of practice.

Q: Can the Supervisor and Sponsor be the same person?

A: No. Our requirements are guided by the Medical Practitioners Regulations. This legislation sets out the requirements and criteria for both a Sponsor and a Supervisor. Your Sponsor is required to hold a senior leadership position within the NSHA or IWK Health Centre. Should your Supervisor identify patient safety concerns related to your practice, along with notifying you, they would be required to bring these concerns forward to your Sponsor. It is the Sponsor's responsibility to work with the Defined licence physician and the Supervisor to navigate next steps with the College to ensure patient safety.

Q: Why does my Supervisor need to send a separate letter to the College? Isn't the Terms of Supervision enough?

A: The requirement for a letter from the Supervisor is process related. The College requires written confirmation that the Supervisor has agreed to supervise as part of [the approval of Supervisor](#) process. This will also provide an opportunity for the Supervisor to contact the College with any questions related to supervision. The College has a templated letter available to those Supervisors that require one. Please contact registration@cpsns.ns.ca to request a copy of the letter template.

Q: Have you communicated to Sponsors the requirements for physicians to be eligible to act as Supervisors?

A: Yes. The College has communicated the requirements to all stakeholders directly in addition to providing the information on our website found [here](#).

A Sponsor must hold a Full licence, hold a senior leadership position with their respective Health Authority and be approved by the Registrar of the College. The Sponsor must arrange for, and approve in writing, a Supervisor.

Additionally, the Sponsorship requirements are communicated in the Terms of Sponsorship Form. The form outlines the expectations of a Sponsor, specifically, that the Sponsor is not able to act as a Supervisor and Sponsor for the same physician.

Q: Who is responsible for ensuring the Supervisor submits their letter and terms on time?

A: As an applicant, you can review the outstanding documents required to complete your application through the member portal. If you notice these documents are still outstanding and you expected to start practising soon, it is your responsibility to follow up with your supervising physician to ensure all documentation is received by the College.

We recommend you have all documents submitted 2 weeks before your expected start date as processing times may vary.

Q: If the Royal College/CCFP exam is postponed further, will I be required to pay Supervision fees?

A: No. Supervision fees will be waived until the first available exam sitting.

Q: Are trainees who completed their medical degree from an international jurisdiction eligible for a Defined Licence Pandemic under Basic Supervision?

A: Yes. If you completed your postgraduate training in Canada, you are eligible for a Defined Licence Pandemic.

Q: Could you call it a Defined licence - Pandemic instead of just Defined licence?

A: The College's licence categories are defined in the Medical Practitioners Regulations. The Regulations also outline requirements for each category of licence. The College cannot change the licence name in our Register.

Q: Are family medicine residents permitted to practice as Hospitalists or in the ER?

A: Newly qualified physicians begin their careers with a clinical scope of practice defined by the knowledge and skills acquired and demonstrated during their training. The College will review your intended scope of practice as outlined in your letter of intent and reconcile this with your training. Canadian trained Family Medicine trainees normally have the appropriate training to practice within this scope. Each file will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Generally speaking, yes, this scope is permitted.

Please contact your assigned Registration Coordinator or registration@cpsns.ns.ca if you have any additional questions regarding licensure.

For any Supervision related questions, please contact Ms. Michelle Kaiser at mkaiser@cpsns.ns.ca.