

Medical Specialty List Criteria

SECTION	REGISTRATION		
APPLICABLE POLICY/LEGISLATION	Section 10 of the Medical Practitioners Regulations		
Approved by: Registration Policy Committee Executive Committee	Approval Date: February 4, 2021 February 19, 2021	Reviewer: Deputy Registrar	Review Date: February 2023

Purpose

This policy sets out the criteria that a physician must meet in order to be recognized as a specialist by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

Scope

This policy applies to individuals who have met the criteria for registration and have been issued a licence to practice medicine in Nova Scotia.

Under this policy the College will recognize specialty titles only in areas for which specialties and subspecialties are granted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) or the College des medecins du Quebec (CMQ).

Physicians may complete additional training through the RCPSC and obtain an area of focused competence Diploma (DRCPC) or the CFPC to obtain a Certificate of Added Competence (CAC). These additional training diplomas/certificates do not meet the RCPSC or CFPC criteria for a specialty, foundation program or subspecialty. The College will recognize and record this information on a physician's record, but will not recognize these credentials for the purposes of specialist designation.

Policy

A physician must not identify themselves as a specialist unless they have been granted specialty recognition by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. A physician who meets any of the following criteria will be recognized as a specialist:

- Physicians who have been granted the following certifications may be recognized as specialists on the Medical Specialties List of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia:

Issuing body	Certification
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada	FRCPC, FRCSC

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada	Valid eligibility for RCPSC certification exam or certification process (including PER)
College of Family Physicians of Canada	CCFP, CCFP-EM
College of Family Physicians of Canada	Valid eligibility for the CFPC exam or certification process (including PER and reciprocity)
Collège des médecins du Québec (CMQ)	CSPQ

2. A physician who has been granted international specialist certification and has been granted a Defined licence as the result of satisfactorily completing an approved practice ready assessment **may** be recognized as a specialist on the medical specialties list.
3. A physician not otherwise recognized as a specialist by this policy who holds a faculty appointment with the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine at the level of Assistant Professor or higher and who has been recommended for an Academic Licence by the Dean of Medicine, Dalhousie University **may** be recognized as a specialist on the medical specialties list.
4. A physician not otherwise recognized as a specialist by the policy who holds a Defined licence and enrolled in a Clinical Fellowship, **may** be recognized as a specialist on the medical specialties list. This may be applied to physicians whose certification and training are from a jurisdiction accepted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The physician must have the same number of years of training as required by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
5. A physician who has been granted a licence in Nova Scotia by way of the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*, Chapter 7 and who has held specialty status in their province or territory of origin **may** be recognized as a specialist on the medical specialties list.
6. A physician not otherwise recognized as a specialist by this policy who has been granted specialty certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties and holds the same number of years of training as required by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for that specialty **may** be recognized as a specialist on the medical specialties list.