

OVERVIEW

New Licensing Pathway for Physicians Trained Outside of Canada

The College has developed a streamlined approach to long-term licensure for physicians on a Defined licence.

The *Medical Act* requires physicians trained outside of Canada to practise under a Defined Licence and undergo supervision. Physicians must meet the requirements and conditions required to obtain a Defined Licence. There is no change to the qualification requirements.

The College's new approach has been informed by:

- a review of data from the last six years of working with sponsors and supervisors overseeing the licensing pathway of physicians with a Defined Licence seeking Full licensure;
- listening to physicians and stakeholders working with physicians on a Defined Licence;
- a review of licensing best practices in other Canadian jurisdictions to determine what elements would effectively apply to the Nova Scotia context; and
- the College's commitment to support the recruitment of physicians.

New Licensing Pathway	What's Changed
<p>Provides a comprehensive orientation program for physicians.</p> <p>Physicians trained outside Canada have identified the need for a more robust orientation program to support their integration into medical practice in the Canadian context.</p>	<p>This is a new comprehensive and collaborative orientation program to help physicians who are practicing in Canada for the first time to succeed.</p>
<p>Reduces the required time physicians on a Defined Licence must practise under supervision by 60%.</p> <p>Research shows the majority of practice areas of concern are identified and addressed in first nine months of supervision.</p>	<p>The minimum supervision period is six months.</p> <p>The maximum supervision period has been reduced from 60 months to 24 months.</p>
<p>Enables faster decisions regarding long-term licensure based on demonstrated competency.</p> <p>After six months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A physician may be eligible for a long-term Restricted Licence. • A Full Licence can be obtained upon receiving a pass-standing on certification exams. 	<p>A focus on demonstrated competency instead of certification, with more concentrated supervision, robust assessment, and faster licensure decisions.</p> <p>Licensing decisions as soon as 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term independent licensure by way of a Restricted Licence without certification. • A Full Licence can be obtained anytime during or following the six-month supervision period by receiving a pass-standing on certification exams.

IMPORTANT NOTES

New Licensing Pathway for Physicians Trained Outside of Canada

Comprehensive Orientation Program for Physicians

We have listened to physicians and stakeholders who have identified the importance of a comprehensive orientation program to support physicians to achieve success when practising medicine for the first time in Canada.

A mandatory comprehensive and collaborative orientation program is central to the new pathway to licensure. Newcomers to Nova Scotia will be supported to integrate into the medical system, healthcare delivery environment, and local communities where they will practise.

Focus on Demonstrated Competency not Certification

The new pathway will require that physicians be deemed *eligible* by their certifying body to challenge certification, but there is no requirement to challenge the certification exams to obtain long-term licensure. These exams were designed for postgraduate trainees that have just completed their training program not for mid-career physicians.

The new licensing pathway focuses on demonstration of competence and good patient care through more concentrated supervision over a shorter duration than previously required.

The College has incorporated learning from its data and research, which indicated that most performance concerns are identified and addressed in the first 9.5 months of supervised practise.

Physicians issued a Defined Licence will have a minimum of 6 months of supervision to a maximum of 24 months. Based on our data, we anticipate that 80% of physicians on the new pathway will be issued a Restricted Licence after 6 months. A smaller cohort may require up to 24 months of supervision.

Faster Licensing Decisions: Restricted & Full Licensure

Success in this pathway will lead to long-term independent licensure without certification through a Restricted Licence. Conditions on a Restricted Licence are:

- Restricted to the location of supervised practice.
- Restricted to a scope of practice consistent with competence demonstrated while under supervision.

Success in this pathway can lead to long-term independent licensure through a Full Licence when the physician obtains pass-standing in their certification examination(s).