



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

Legislative Guidance

Re-entry to or Change in Practice

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Related topic(s):	Health Professions Act

Legislative Guidance provides physicians with assistance in navigating legislation applicable to the medical profession. The information provided in this document is meant to be used as a helpful resource, and should be read in conjunction with the legislation it refers to.

Registrants may seek advice on these issues by contacting the College and asking to speak with a member of the registrar staff, or by seeking medical legal advice from the CMPA.

PREAMBLE

This guidance has been developed to assist physicians with respect to their re-entry to or change in practice.

GUIDANCE

Section 2-8 of the [Bylaws](#) under the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c.183.

Re-entry to or change in practice

- 2-8 (1) A registrant who has been absent from clinical practice for a period of three years or more must notify the registrar in writing prior to his or her proposed return to practice.
- (2) A registrant
- (a) who has been absent from clinical practice for a consecutive period of three years or more or who has practised less than eight weeks a year in the preceding three years, must, prior to resuming practice,
 - (i) notify the registrar in writing,
 - (ii) undergo a review and assessment of skill, knowledge and competency as determined by the registrar, and
 - (iii) provide a written report acceptable to the registrar of successful completion of such review and assessment, and
 - (iv) undergo retraining as specified by the registrar, if any.
 - (b) who wishes to change the focus of his or her clinical practice to an area in which the registrant has not practised for a consecutive period of three years or more, or who has practised less than eight weeks a year in that area in the preceding three years, must, prior to applying for registration or changing the focus of his or her clinical practice,
 - (i) notify the registrar in writing,
 - (ii) undergo a review and assessment of skill, knowledge and competency as determined by the registrar, and
 - (iii) provide a written report acceptable to the registrar of successful completion of such review and assessment, and
 - (iv) undergo retraining as specified by the registrar, if any, or
 - (c) who wishes to change the focus or scope of his or her clinical practice to an area in which the registrant has not previously practised or demonstrated competence to the satisfaction of the College, must, prior to changing the focus or scope of his or her practice,
 - (i) notify the registrar in writing,

- (ii) meet the post-graduate training requirements for registration in the area in which the registrant wishes to practise,
 - (iii) undergo a review and assessment of skill, knowledge and competency as determined by the registrar,
 - (iv) provide a written report acceptable to the registrar of successful completion of such review and assessment, and
 - (v) undergo retraining as specified by the registrar, if any.
- (3) A registrant may request that the board review any decision made under sections 2-8(2)(a), (b) or (c), by filing a written request for review with the registrar within 30 days of the registrar's original decision.
- (4) In addition to the applicable conditions and requirements established in Section B of Part 2, an applicant for registration who has previously practised medicine in British Columbia or another jurisdiction and
 - (a) who has been absent from clinical practice for a consecutive period of three years or more, or who has practised less than eight weeks a year in the preceding three years, must
 - (i) undergo a review and assessment of skill, knowledge and competency as determined by the registration committee,
 - (ii) provide a written report acceptable to the registration committee of successful completion of such review and assessment, and
 - (iii) undergo retraining as specified by the registration committee, if any,
 - (b) who wishes to change the focus or scope of his or her clinical practice to an area in which he or she has not practised for a consecutive period of three years or more, or who has practised less than eight weeks a year in that area in the preceding three years, must
 - (i) undergo a review and assessment of skill, knowledge and competency as determined by the registration committee,
 - (ii) provide a written report acceptable to the registration committee of successful completion of such review and assessment, and
 - (iii) undergo retraining as specified by the registration committee, if any, or
 - (c) who wishes to change the focus or scope of his or her clinical practice to an area in which he or she has not previously practised or demonstrated competence to the satisfaction of the College, must
 - (i) meet the post-graduate training requirements for registration in the area in which the registrant wishes to practise,
 - (ii) undergo a review and assessment of skill, knowledge and competency as determined by the registration committee,

- (iii) provide a written report acceptable to the registration committee of successful completion of such review and assessment, and
- (iv) undergo retraining as specified by the registration committee, if any.