



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

# Registration Policy

## Associate Physician Class – Eligible Clinical Programs

The purpose of this policy is to articulate what programs are eligible, once accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College), to use a physician registered in the associate physician class to deliver patient care as a physician working with their program.

### BACKGROUND

The associate physician class allows physicians with specialty medical training, acceptable to the College, to work under supervision in structured team-based care to increase capacity and service delivery.

This class of licensure supports an employment environment for physicians in British Columbia who do not meet the criteria for licensure as independent medical practitioners.

Section 2-24 of the College Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act* states:

- 2-24 (1) Associate physician registration may be granted to physicians, who are not otherwise eligible for registration in the provisional or full class as determined by the registration committee, and who are practicing under the direction and supervision of an attending physician. An associate physician may not be the most responsible physician.
- (2) For the purposes of section 20(2) of the Act, to be granted registration in the associate physician class, an applicant must
- (a) have a medical degree,
  - (b) submit with the application a sponsorship letter from a Health Authority, satisfactory to the registration committee, that
    - (i) identifies the applicant's sponsor,
    - (ii) describes how the applicant will engage in the practise of medicine, and
    - (iii) notes that the applicant will be working under the direction and supervision of an attending physician,
  - (c) have completed a minimum of two years' accredited training as a medical or surgical specialist prior to applying for registration,
  - (d) have successfully completed Part 1 of the MCC Qualifying Examination, and
  - (e) have Canadian Citizenship, be a permanent resident or be legally able to live and work in British Columbia.
- (3) Associate physician must limit his or her practice of medicine to the provision of services in connection with fulfilling the terms set out in their sponsorship letter.

- (4) Associate physician registration is canceled if the Health Authority withdraws sponsorship provided under section 2-24(2).

## POLICY

Structured programs that provide team-based care are eligible to

1. apply for accreditation in accordance with the Initial Accreditation Standard – Associate Physician Program, and
2. once accredited by the College, and subject to ongoing accreditation, utilize physicians registered in the associate physician class to practise in their program.

Examples of structured programs that provide team-based care include surgical programs, neonatal intensive care units, intensive care units, and cancer agency programs.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Associate Physician Class – Registration and Licensure Requirements for Eligibility and Accountability
- Associate Physician Class – Use of Title Policy
- Accreditation Standards for Initial Accreditation – Associate Physician Program
- Associate Physician Program Accreditation – Initial Pre-visit Questionnaire
- Accreditation Standards for Ongoing Accreditation – Associate Physician Program
- Associate Physician Program Accreditation – Ongoing Pre-visit Questionnaire

**Effective September 24, 2020**