



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

Registration Policy

Associate Physician Class – Use of Title

The purpose of this policy is to articulate who can use the title of associate physician and the requirements for registrants in the associate physician class as these relate to the title of associate physician.

BACKGROUND

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

Physicians registered in the associate physician class with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College) may use the title "associate physician."

When practising, a registrant in the associate physician class must introduce themselves as an associate physician to patients and health-care professionals and allied health-care members, and also provide patients and health-care professionals and allied health-care members with the information that they are not licensed for independent practice and work under the supervision of a named attending physician.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Associate Physician Class – Registration and Licensure Requirements for Eligibility and Accountability
- Associate Physician Class – Eligible Clinical Programs
- 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