

REGISTRATION POLICY

Associate Physician Class – Use of Title

Purpose

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

Associate physician

Section 2-25 of the College Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act* states:

- 2-25 (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 and only practise in an accredited Associate Physician Program.
- (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
 - (i) where in a Health Authority setting, a sponsorship letter from a Health Authority, satisfactory to the registration committee, that identifies the applicant's sponsor, describes how the applicant will engage in the practise of medicine, and notes that the applicant will be working under the direction and supervision of an attending physician, and
 - (ii) where in a non-Health Authority community setting,
 - (A) a sponsorship letter from the primary responsible physician, satisfactory to the registration committee, that identifies the applicant's sponsor, describes how the applicant will engage in the practise of medicine, and notes that the applicant will be working under the direction and supervision of an attending physician, and

- (B) where required by the College, a contract of supervision, completed to the satisfaction of the College,
- (c) have completed
 - (i) if practising in an acute care setting, a minimum of one year accredited training as a medical or surgical specialist prior to applying for registration,
 - (ii) if practising in a community primary care setting, a minimum of one year of accredited training as a general practitioner prior to applying for registration, or
 - (iii) if practising as a surgical assistant, a minimum of one year of accredited training as a medical or surgical specialist or as a general practitioner including, four weeks of surgical training excluding obstetrics and gynecology prior to applying for registration
- (d) have Canadian Citizenship, be a permanent resident or be legally able to live and work in British Columbia.
- (3) An applicant for this class may be exempt from section 2-2(2)(c) subject to a period of retraining with the sponsoring Health Authority or non-Health Authority community setting under section 2-25(2)(b), satisfactory to the College.
- (4) An associate physician must limit their practice of medicine to the provision of services in connection with fulfilling the terms set out in their sponsorship letter.
- (5) An associate physician registration if:
 - (a) sponsorship provided under section 2-25(2)(b) is withdrawn, or
 - (b) the registrant ceases to engage in the practice of medicine as described in 2-25(2)(b).
- (6) A registrant granted associate physician registration is exempted from complying with the continuing professional development requirements referenced under section 2-5, however must comply with the continuing professional development requirements of the Associate Physician Program.

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 work under the supervision of a named attending physician.

Related policies

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

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