

## REGISTRATION POLICY

# English Language Proficiency Exemption - Visitor Class

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the circumstances in which an exemption to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC's (CPSBC) registration policy *English Language Proficiency Requirements* may be granted to an applicant for registration and licensure in the visitor class.

## Background

Section 2-2(2)(d) of the CPSBC Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act* states:

- (2) An applicant for any class of registration, except for emergency registration, must
  - (d) demonstrate proficiency in English to the satisfaction of the registration committee,

Section 2-34 of the CPSBC Bylaws states:

### Visitor

- 2-34 (1) Visitor registration may be granted to an applicant who wishes to provide or acquire a short term learning experience relevant to the applicant's specialty and area of practice, not to exceed six months, involving clinical contact with patients or to provide limited medical care in specific circumstances, and will be subject to the limits and conditions specified by the registration committee.
- (2) For the purposes of section 20(2) of the Act, to be granted visitor registration, an applicant must
  - (a) have a medical degree,
  - (b) have certification acceptable to the registration committee,
    - (i) if a family physician, from the CFPC or satisfactory postgraduate training in family medicine consistent with the applicant's defined responsibilities, unless exempted by the registration committee, or
    - (ii) if a specialist, from the RCPSC or certification as a medical or surgical specialist in the jurisdiction of practice immediately

prior to applying for registration, unless exempted by the registration committee,

- (c) satisfy the registration committee that the applicant is legally entitled to visit or reside in British Columbia for the purpose of his or her educational experience,
- (d) submit with the application a request to grant the registration from a registrant in one of the full classes of registration or an organization acceptable to the registrar,
- (e) specify the dates and locations where the applicant will be carrying out his or her educational experience, and
- (f) provide the name of a registrant acceptable to the registration committee who, where appropriate, will be responsible for supervising the applicant.

### **Current English language proficiency requirements**

An applicant for any class of registration, except for emergency registration, must have the ability to speak, read and write English to the satisfaction of the Registration Committee, pursuant to section 2-2(2) of the CPSBC Bylaws.

The Registration Committee may determine that an applicant has demonstrated English language proficiency if either:

1. The primary language of medical education was English, and the primary language of patient care was English, or
2. The applicant currently holds a current and valid medical licence in any province or territory in Canada, and the applicant demonstrates that they practise primarily in English.

The Registration Committee may exempt an applicant from the English language proficiency requirements set out herein in exceptional circumstances.

### **Policy**

Applicants seeking registration and licensure in the visitor class may request an exemption to CPSBC's registration policy *English Language Proficiency Requirements* if the supervising physician attests that, during the applicant physician's period of registration and licensure in the visitor class, the applicant physician will

- be observing only
- not have involvement in or influence over the care of patients including influencing the decision-making of the patient or supervisor, assisting with procedures, editing medical records of patients, and
- not engage in the teaching of learners or other medical practitioners.

Visitor class applicants currently licensed in another Canadian province or territory are exempt from meeting the *English Language Proficiency Requirements*.

**Effective May 3, 2019**

**Revised February 20, 2025**