

## REGISTRATION POLICY

# Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and the Practice Eligibility Route Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (PER-SEAP)

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the acceptability of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) Practice Eligibility Route for the Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (PER-SEAP) for registrants in the provisional - specialty class.

## Background

The RCPSC PER-SEAP was developed by the RCPSC for internationally trained subspecialists in Canada who are not Royal College certified in their primary specialty. The PER-SEAP will allow registrants to proceed directly to sit the examination in their subspecialty, without first having obtained RCPSC certification in their primary specialty. Upon successful completion of the subspecialty examination, the registrant will be provided with RCPSC certification as a "Royal College Subspecialist Affiliate."

The RCPSC states that an internationally trained subspecialist who does not hold RCPSC certification in their primary specialty but is licensed and practising as a subspecialist in Canada may apply to the RCPSC for an assessment through PER-SEAP. The assessment of eligibility for the RCPSC PER-SEAP is conducted by the RCPSC and not the College.

Section 1-15(3) of the College Bylaws (the Bylaws) under the *Health Professions Act (HPA)* provides the Registration Committee with the discretion to consider whether a registrant's knowledge, skills and abilities are substantially equivalent to the standards expected of registrants in British Columbia (BC):

### Registration Committee

- 1-15 (3) The committee is empowered, but is in no circumstance required, to consider whether a person's knowledge, skills and abilities are substantially equivalent to the standards of academic achievement, competencies or other qualifications established in Part 2 of the Bylaws and to grant registration on that basis. If the committee proceeds to consider the substantial equivalence of a person's knowledge, skills and abilities, the committee has discretion with

respect to the extent, process, and substance of its inquiry. Without limiting when the committee may decline to use its power or how it may exercise discretion, the committee may decline to exercise its power where substantial equivalence must first be assessed, or has already been assessed, in whole or in part, by one or more medical certification bodies, which may include the Medical Council of Canada, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Collège des Médecins du Québec.

Section 2-16 of the Bylaws under the *HPA* states:

### **Provisional – specialty**

- 2-16 (1) For the purposes of section 20(2) of the Act, to be granted provisional registration for specialty practice, in addition to the requirements under section 2-17, an applicant must
- (a) have a medical degree,
  - (b) have met one of the following requirements:
    - (i) have obtained RCPSC certification;
    - (ii) if they have trained in an RCPSC specialty program in Canada but have not obtained RCPSC certification, they must provide a recommendation from the applicant’s Program Director and Chairperson of the Department, attesting to competence and successful completion of all program requirements, acceptable to the registration committee;
    - (iii) have completed postgraduate training and obtained a completion of training certificate and certification in the applicant’s specialty from a foreign jurisdiction where such training meets the criteria for a RCPSC ruling to access RCPSC certification through examinations, acceptable to the registration committee, or
    - (iv) have successfully completed a practice ready assessment, acceptable to the registration committee in a Canadian province or territory, and
  - (c) have Canadian Citizenship, be a permanent resident or be legally able to live and work in British Columbia.

## **Policy**

A registrant who is registered and licensed in BC in the provisional – specialty class pursuant to section

2-16(1)(b)(iii) of the College Bylaws and the *Eligibility in the Provisional Class: RCPSC Rulings Acceptable to the Registration Committee* and the *Subspecialty Recognition* policies may

apply for the RCPSC to determine eligibility for the RCPSC PER-SEAP which allows the registrant to sit the subspecialty certification examination.

A registrant may request that the Registration Committee consider whether eligibility for the RCPSC PER-SEAP and successful award of subspecialist affiliate status, in addition to the totality of the registrant's knowledge, skills and abilities, would be substantially equivalent to the expected standards pursuant to section 1-15(3) of the College Bylaws. The committee will also consider whether the subspecialist affiliate status is acceptable in lieu of RCPSC certification in their primary specialty. If deemed acceptable in lieu of RCPSC certification in their primary specialty, the registrant will be recognized by the College as holding subspecialty certification as a "PER-SEAP Candidate" and may be eligible for a transfer to the full - specialty class of registration if all other requirements for registration are met.

**Effective February 23, 2022**

**Revised November 28, 2022**