



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

Registration Policy

Subspecialty Recognition

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify what the Registration Committee considers acceptable to recognize the subspecialty of a physician applying for (or registered in) the full – specialty or the provisional – specialty class of licensure.

BACKGROUND

Section 2-15(1)(b)(iii) of the College Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act* states:

Provisional – specialty

- 2-15 (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 2-16, an applicant must
- (a) have a medical degree,
 - (b) meet one of the following requirements:
 - (i) have obtained RCPSC certification;
 - (ii) if the applicant trained in an RCPSC specialty program in Canada but has not obtained RCPSC certification, he or she 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 an international accrediting body where such training meets the criteria for a RCPSC ruling to access RCPSC certification through examinations, acceptable to the registration committee, or
 - (iv) have undergone an assessment of competency 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.

A physician who has completed international training or practice must have their training and/or practice assessed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) to determine their eligibility to sit the RCPSC primary/subspecialty examinations. This assessment ensures that the physician has met specific training and/or practice requirements to register for the examination. If

successful in the assessment, the physician will receive a ruling letter granting examination eligibility. More information can be found [here](#).

POLICY

Canadian subspecialty training

A physician who completed their primary specialty training at an accredited postgraduate program in Canada, acceptable to the Registration Committee, who holds RCPSC certification in that specialty, may be eligible to have their subspecialty training recognized if the following is satisfied:

- Subspecialty training completed at an accredited postgraduate program in Canada, and
- RCPSC certification in the same subspecialty.

Canadian-trained specialists who completed subspecialty training in the USA

A physician who completed their education or primary specialty training in Canada, but completed accredited subspecialty training in the USA, acceptable to the Registration Committee, may be eligible to have their subspecialty training recognized as “non-RCPSC” certification if:

- they provide to the College a certificate of completion of training (i.e. proof of American Board certification in their subspecialty), and
- RCPSC ruling to access the certification examinations in their subspecialty.

International subspecialty training

A physician who completed their primary specialty/subspecialty training in an international postgraduate program recognized by the RCPSC, and acceptable to the Registration Committee, may be eligible to have their subspecialty training recognized if the following is satisfied:

- Physician must provide a certificate of completion of training from their postgraduate program, and
- RCPSC eligibility ruling to access examinations in their primary specialty and subspecialty.

Effective March 16, 2021