



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

# Registration Policy

## Substantial Equivalency Consideration for Applicants to the Full Class of Registration

### PURPOSE

All physicians and surgeons who practise in British Columbia must be registered and licensed with the College. The College ensures that only qualified, competent and ethical physicians and surgeons are granted registration and given a licence to practise in British Columbia.

The Registration Committee (the committee) is authorized to grant registration to applicants that satisfy the committee that they meet the conditions or requirements for registration in a particular class and as outlined in Part 2 of the College Bylaws (the Bylaws).

Applicants to the full class of registration who do not meet the requirements set out in sections 2-10 or 2-11 of the Bylaws may be eligible for registration if the committee determines that their knowledge, skills and abilities are substantially equivalent to the standards of academic achievement, competencies or other qualifications established in Part 2 of the Bylaws.

### BACKGROUND

Sections 2-10 or 2-11 of the Bylaws set out the criteria that must be met by an applicant to the full class of registration in BC.

Section 1-15(3) of the Bylaws provides the committee with the discretion to consider whether a physician's knowledge, skills and abilities are substantially equivalent to the standards expected of physicians in BC:

- 1-15 (3) The committee has discretion 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.

### DEFINITIONS

#### Knowledge<sup>1</sup>

1. the information, understanding, and skills that you gain through education or experience:  
*practical/medical/scientific knowledge*
2. the state of knowing about a particular fact or situation

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american\\_english/knowledge#:~:text=knowledge-,noun,knowledge%20of%20painting%20and%20music](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/knowledge#:~:text=knowledge-,noun,knowledge%20of%20painting%20and%20music).

In the medical context, physicians must possess a defined body of knowledge, clinical skills and professional behaviors when providing patient care. They are guided by codes of ethics, commitments and accountability that form the basis of an understanding between the physician and society. The CMA *Code of Ethics and Professionalism* can be found [here](#).

### Skills<sup>2</sup>

1. the ability to do something well
2. a particular ability or type of ability

In the medical context, physicians must have skills that meet the standards of practice as outlined in the College's [practice standards and professional guidelines](#), the [College Bylaws](#) and the [Health Professions Act](#).

### Abilities<sup>3</sup>

1. ability to do something: the fact that somebody/something is able to do something
2. a level of skill or intelligence

In the medical context, physicians must display adequate medical knowledge, clinical skills and professional behaviours when providing patient care.

## POLICY

In conducting a review pursuant to section 1-15(3) of the Bylaws, the Committee will consider all of the information provided by the applicant in support of their application, to determine whether the totality of their knowledge, skills and abilities are deemed to be substantially equivalent to the standards of academic achievement, competencies or other qualifications established in Part 2 of the Bylaws. The information and documentation provided by the applicant must be objective and independently verifiable, and may include the following:

- Whether they hold certification in a specialty obtained in a non-Canadian jurisdiction that the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) deems to be a “subspecialty discipline” (the Committee may limit an applicant’s scope of practice to the relevant subspecialty area, if deemed appropriate).
- Medical work experience and related information including, but not limited to:
  - Length of time and/or success in each professional practice
  - Practice setting (e.g. tertiary level, academic, community, urban, rural, remote)
  - Competencies required for and developed while in each position
  - Level of responsibility
  - Level of support (e.g. teaching hospital, community setting)
  - Research and publications
- Completion of supplementary medical education and/or training.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/skill?q=skills>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/ability\\_1?q=abilities](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/ability_1?q=abilities)

- Additional relevant medical competencies demonstrated and information about how these competencies were assessed, when and by whom.
- Intended nature and scope of medical practice in BC including:
  - Practice setting (e.g. tertiary level, academic, community, urban, rural, remote)
  - Level of responsibility
  - Level of support (e.g. teaching hospital, community setting)
- Other information that the applicant wants to provide (e.g. period of non-practice and explanation thereof).

**Effective June 23, 2021**