



FAQs for Fees Model – Quality Assurance Program: Peer and Practice Assessments

Introduction

Each year the College conducts over 2,000 assessments of physicians under the auspices of the College's quality assurance program. The overwhelming majority of these assessments are conducted at **no charge** to the physician. This document describes the different types of peer and practice assessments conducted by the College and the fees for these assessments (including when a fee is waived).

What types of peer and practice assessments are conducted under the College's quality assurance program? What are their specific components, and purpose? What are their prescribed fees?

1. Peer Assessment

The most typical form of peer and practice assessment includes a medical records review and physician interview, and is commonly referred to as the [peer assessment process](#). [This process](#) provides members with feedback that validates they are practicing appropriately and, in addition, provides opportunities to improve their practice.

If opportunities for improvement are identified during the initial peer and practice assessment, the College's Quality Assurance Committee *may* require a physician to undergo a peer and practice *re-assessment*, which typically involves the same components (medical records review and physician interview) to determine whether the physician has improved his or her practice.

More than **90%** of the College's annual quality assurance program assessments are initial peer and practice assessments, or first peer and practice re-assessments (of which the components are described above). The College's current policy¹ is to waive fees for the above described assessments, i.e. there are no fees charged to the physician.

If, however, a physician requires a second (or subsequent) peer and practice re-assessment (limited to a medical records review and physician interview), then the physician will be charged \$2900² to cover the costs incurred by the College to conduct the re-assessment.

¹ The College's policy regarding the waiver of fees is subject to change.

² Of the total fee, \$1700 is the Assessment fee, and \$1200 is the Administrative Fee. These fees have been calculated based on the average costs to the College of conducting a peer assessment or re-assessment. Fees are subject to change, and may be adjusted periodically to account for changes to the costs associated with administering assessments.

2. Comprehensive Peer and Practice Assessment & Associated Fees

If significant concerns regarding knowledge, skills and judgement are identified through the [peer assessment process](#), the Quality Assurance Committee may order a more comprehensive peer and practice assessment.

A more comprehensive peer and practice assessment may take up to two days to complete, and typically includes the following components: direct observation, medical records review and interviews of peers, colleagues, and co-workers, as well as patient survey questionnaires. The physician will be charged \$5,700³ to cover the costs incurred by the College to conduct the assessment. This fee will apply regardless of the stage at which a comprehensive assessment is ordered, including comprehensive first re-assessments.

3. Practice Assessment & Associated Fees for physicians proposing to change their scope of practice or re-enter practice after an absence

The Quality Assurance Committee may order a practice assessment for physicians who have chosen to change their scope of practice, or re-enter practice after an absence, which typically includes the following components: medical records review, interview with the physician, observation of the physician in his/her new scope of practice, and colleague interviews. The physician will be charged \$3,350⁴ to cover the costs incurred by the College to conduct the assessment.

For details, please refer to the College's [Ensuring Competence: Changing Scope of Practice and/or Re-entering Practice Policy](#)

When does this fee structure come into effect?

The change is effective May 30, 2014, the date that Council approved this new QAC Peer and Practice Assessment Fees Model.

What is the penalty if the fees are not paid on time?

Payment is due within 30 days of receiving a College invoice – unless a physician has negotiated a payment plan with the College. Any outstanding fees will be added to the physician's College annual renewal payment. If the physician does not pay their annual renewal fee in full, they can be subject to suspension of their certificate due to non-payment of College fees.

If I have questions, who should I call about this?

If you have questions about fees, please contact College Quality Assurance program staff:

Nanci Harris, Manager, 416-967-2600 ext. 325

Tracey Marshall, Supervisor, 416-967-2600 ext. 223

³ Of the total fee, \$4500 is the assessment fee, and \$1200 is the administrative fee. These fees have been calculated based on the average costs to the College of conducting a comprehensive peer and practice assessment or re-assessment. Fees are subject to change, and may be adjusted periodically to account for changes to the costs associated with administering assessments.

⁴ Of the total fee, \$2150 is the assessment fee, and \$1200 is the administrative fee. These fees have been calculated based on the average costs to the College of conducting a practice assessment for physicians changing scope of practice or re-entering practice. Fees are subject to change, and may be adjusted periodically to account for changes to the costs associated with administering assessments.

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