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## FMRAC Agreement on National Standards

In November 2009, College Council endorsed an agreement developed by the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC), which, upon implementation, will establish a national standard for licensure in all jurisdictions.

The need for common national standards arose from the labour mobility provisions in Chapter 7 of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), which enable unrestricted mobility between provinces for anyone licensed to practise medicine in Canada. The AIT became law in Ontario in December 2009 with the passage of Bill 175, which requires Ontario to license physicians coming from anywhere else in Canada, applying the same restrictions on their certificate as were present in their prior jurisdiction, if any.

There are currently more than 60 different combinations of qualifications that entitle individuals to be licensed as physicians in the various jurisdictions across the country. While most ensure safe practitioners, some of the qualifications acceptable in some regions are not satisfactory to others. The goal of the medical regulators in establishing national registration standards is to eliminate the inter-jurisdictional differences between registration qualifications. FMRAC believes that this will assure patient safety by ensuring that applicants across Canada meet acceptable minimum qualifications.

### Implementation of the *Canadian Standard*

The FMRAC agreement addresses entry to practice requirements for full licensure as well as provisional, or restricted, licensure.

As a first step towards implementation of the full agreement, in February 2010, Council agreed to implement immediately the FMRAC requirements for full licensure, defined as the *Canadian Standard* in the FMRAC agreement. The Canadian Standard requires that new applicants have the following qualifications in order to be eligible for a full (unrestricted) license to practise medicine:

- have a medical degree from a medical school listed in the FAIMER's International Medical Education Directory (IMED) or the WHO's World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from a school in the US accredited by the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation; and
- be a Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada; and
- have satisfactorily completed a discipline-appropriate postgraduate training program in allopathic medicine and evaluation by a recognized authority; and
- be certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the Collège des médecins du Québec.

The registration qualifications outlined in the Canadian standard do not differ substantially from Ontario's current registration requirements. However, implementing the Canadian standard as well as implementing the AIT has led to some changes in existing CPSO registration policies. More information is available under [Registration Policies](#).

### FMRAC Agreement

The CPSO Council has endorsed the FMRAC Agreement on National Standards that establishes entry to practice requirements for medical licensure in all Canadian jurisdictions. Council has approved the implementation of the *Canadian Standard* defined in the agreement, which sets out the qualifications that entitle an applicant to a full (unrestricted) license in any jurisdiction in Canada. Implementation of the national standards for provisional (restricted) licensure defined in the agreement will be phased in at a later date.

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