JOINT STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE CPSO AND THE CFPC

Information for physicians interested in obtaining a certificate of registration to practice family medicine in Ontario

To practice family medicine in Ontario, the core requirements for the issuance of a certificate of registration authorizing Independent Practice include certification by examination from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and parts 1 & 2 of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE).

The CFPC and the CPSO have been working together to improve access and reduce barriers for qualified physicians.

In 2008, the CFPC Board passed a resolution that it would undertake a review of the accreditation standards for family medicine training and certification in family medicine in jurisdictions outside of Canada to determine if they are equivalent to the CFPC standard. Graduates of approved training programs who have obtained certification in family medicine in these jurisdictions will be eligible to apply for CCFP certification without any further examination. This is an enormous undertaking and the work will likely continue for some time.

The CFPC is pleased to announce that it has determined that accredited family medicine training and certification completed in the US, Australia, Ireland and the UK meet its standard for certification in family medicine. Accreditation standards of additional comparable certifying bodies are currently being evaluated. Announcements will be made on the CFPC website as these evaluations are completed and approved. Please refer to the CFPC website for a full description of the eligible programs and jurisdictions.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has agreed that individuals who obtain certification without examination from the CFPC will be eligible to apply for a certificate of registration to practice medicine in Ontario.

The purpose of this document is to outline the steps that physicians will be required to take in order to achieve both CCFP certification and a certificate of registration to practice medicine in Ontario.
HOW TO APPLY

NOTE: The steps indicated below should be completed concurrently between the CFPC and the CPSO.

**Step 1**
Contact the CFPC - Submit a letter of intent to pursue certification without examination enclosing a curriculum vitae and a completed application form. CFPC will review and advise whether or not the applicant’s credentials appear to meet the criteria for certification without examination. The CFPC will notify the candidate in writing of its decision.

Contact the CPSO - Request an application package for a certificate of registration to practice medicine in Ontario. Be sure to tell the College that you are applying for registration on the basis of CFPC certification without examination and identify the country where you completed training and obtained certification.

**Step 2**

CFPC - Apply for membership with the CFPC.
(Note: Certification is a category of membership with CFPC. Eligible physicians living outside Canada may apply for membership in the out-of-country category. This may be converted to an Active membership upon registration to practice in Canada and subsequently converted to Active Certificant member (CCFP) upon completion of the process.

CPSO - Complete the CPSO application process required by the College.

**Step 3**

Credential verification
CFPC uses the services of the Physician Credential Registry of Canada (PCRC) to perform primary source verification of the following credentials: MD/DO, Completion of approved residency training program, Certification in Family Medicine.

CPSO accepts PCRC verified documents for the MD only. All other requirements must come directly from the source. Further information on these requirements will be included with your application package.

**Step 4**
When the candidate has completed all steps required by the CFPC, the CFPC with the candidate’s written consent, will inform the CPSO that the candidate has met the requirements for certification by issuing a letter of eligibility.

When the applicant has completed all steps required by CPSO, the CPSO will issue written notice to the CFPC confirming that the applicant is eligible for a certificate of registration to practice medicine in Ontario.

When the CFPC receives written notice from the CPSO that the candidate has satisfactorily completed the credentialing process and that the candidate is eligible for a certificate of registration, it will grant certification to the candidate. The CFPC will send a written notice to the CPSO confirming that it has granted certification in family medicine to the candidate.

The CPSO will then proceed with presenting the candidate’s application to the Registration Committee for its consideration and approval.
What type of certificate of registration to expect from the CPSO:

- An applicant who has obtained Certification by the CFPC and Parts 1 and 2 of the MCCQE will be eligible to apply for a certificate of registration authorizing independent practice.

- An applicant who has obtained Certification by the CFPC and an acceptable qualifying examination will be eligible to apply for a restricted certificate of registration to practice medicine in Ontario.

The following conditions will be placed on the certificate of registration:

1. The physician must practice with a supervisor and/or mentor until he or she has successfully completed an assessment.
2. The physician must undergo an assessment after completing a minimum of one year of practice in Ontario. The certificate of registration automatically expires 18 months from the date of issuance, but may be renewed by the Registration Committee, with or without additional or other terms, conditions and limitations.

- An applicant who has obtained certification by the CFPC, but has not yet completed Parts 1 & 2 of the MCCQE or an acceptable qualifying examination may be eligible to apply for a restricted certificate of registration to practice medicine in Ontario. However, such applicants must complete the missing examinations before the College would carry out the practice assessment.

Contact information

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