Licensure and Certification – detangling the options

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April 24, 2023
“Every specialist physician in Canada should ideally be certified by the Royal College”

Royal College / FMRAC Meeting

PEI (June 2018)
Certification vs Licensure

Certification

1. Foreign trained traditional route returning home
2. Traditional route trainees practicing outside Canada

Licensure

1. IMGs practicing in Canada
2. Traditional route trainees without certification
Royal College Credentialing

Certification (FRCPC/FRCSC) Or Recognition (Diploma/SEAP/Founder)

With RC Examination
- Accredited / Recognized Training Program
  - Practice Eligibility (PER)
  - Practice Ready Assessment
  - Accredited Training Program
  - Area of Focused Competence (AFC)
  - Academic Certification
  - Founder

Without RC Examination
- Accredited / Recognized Training Program
  - DRCPSC
  - Area of Focused Competence (AFC)

Canadian Training Program
- ACGME
- International RC Programs
- CMQ
- Jurisdictional

FRCP/FRCSC
- SEAP
- FRCPC/FRCSC
- DRCPSC
- Founder Status

International RC Programs
- FRCPC/FRCSC
- SEAP

Obtained through
- Accredited / Recognized Training Program
- Practice Eligibility (PER)
- Practice Ready Assessment
- Accredited Training Program
- Area of Focused Competence (AFC)
- Academic Certification
- Founder

Eligible for
- FRCPC/FRCSC
- SEAP
- DRCPSC
- Founder Status
Training Routes to Certification/Recognition with Examination

SEAP (Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program)

- Candidates training and registered as “Fellows” in Canadian Royal College accredited subspecialty training programs
- Candidates usually international medical graduates (IMGs) without prerequisite RC certification in a primary specialty for Fellowship
- Candidates have primary specialty certification from another jurisdiction
Practice Routes to Certification/Recognition with Examination

PER-SEAP

Candidates without RC certification in a primary discipline, with 5 years (2 years in a single practice location in Canada) in scope of practice of subspecialty as assessed by specialty committee

Candidates without RC certification in a primary discipline (primary certification from another jurisdiction) with 12-24 months (depending on the subspecialty) of training in a program NOT ACCREDITED by RC

Practice Ready Assessment (PRA)

Candidates may not meet all training requirements for exam eligibility and/or not from any approved jurisdictions. May or may not have requisite years for PER application

Nominated by MRA or accredited university program (TBC) to be assessed for competencies to practice in the discipline in accredited programs, or by validated supervisors

CMQ Harmonization of national certification with CMQ examination in 2001

CMQ assesses eligibility to sit national examination based on application or PRA process
Practice Routes to Certification/Recognition with Examination

Practice Eligibility Route (PER)
Candidates from any jurisdiction totaling 5 years of practice who meet the Canadian training requirements can sit Royal College examinations after 3 years of practice in any jurisdiction.

2 years of practice must be in a single practice location in Canada for a valid assessment of practice.

PER-subspecialty
Candidates with RC certification in a primary discipline, with 5 years of practice (2 years in a single practice location in Canada) in scope of practice of subspecialty as assessed by specialty committee.

Candidates with RC certification in a primary discipline with 1-5 years (1 year in single practice location) in scope of practice AND equivalent training in a training program NOT ACCREDITED by RC.

PER-SEAP
Candidates without RC certification in a primary discipline, with 5 years (2 years in a single practice location in Canada) in scope of practice of subspecialty as assessed by specialty committee.

Candidates without RC certification in a primary discipline (primary certification from another jurisdiction) with 12-24 months (depending on the subspecialty) of training in a program NOT ACCREDITED by RC.

Practice Ready Assessment (PRA)
Candidates may not meet all training requirements for exam eligibility and/or not from any approved jurisdictions. May or may not have requisite years for PER application.

Nominated by MRA or accredited university program (TBC) to be assessed for competencies to practice in the discipline in accredited programs, or by validated supervisors.

CMQ
CMQ assesses eligibility to sit national examination based on application or PRA process.
SEAP

• Must be registered in an accredited program
  • Could be resident or fellow – not necessarily ministry-funded

• Undergo SAME curriculum and assessment process
  • All Competencies
    • Overseen by comp ctee (same as subspecialty ctee)

• Rely on university attestation

• Will need to be similar in length to subspecialty (but still competency-based)

• NOT route to fellowship/certification
To date, approximately 80 clinical fellows registered at the University of Toronto, representing 16 different subspecialties, have applied to challenge the Royal College’s subspecialty certification examination. The Program Director and the Associate Dean PGME must sign the Confirmation of Completion of Training (CCT) and the Final In-Training Evaluation Report (FITER) for each SEAP candidate. PGME tracks the participation of clinical fellows in the SEAP.
PRA - Background

• The expansion of the PRA route is to facilitate the recruitment of competent IMGs in a discipline for clinical and/or academic service obligations that are not met by existing workforce planning.

• Accredited university departments or MRAs are not obligated to offer PRA at their institution.

• Departments should communicate with the university PGME office if planning on a PRA for awareness and potential resources.

• PRA requires the investment by faculty, competence committees, and programs for the necessary assessments.
  • Collaboration and communication across the department is critical for success.
Practice Ready Assessment (PRA) Nomination by Accredited University Program

This variation of the Practice Ready Assessment (PRA) route allows physicians in a clinical fellowship training program to undergo a PRA in a Royal College-accredited Canadian postgraduate training program in a discipline that has transitioned to CBD to receive exam eligibility, and subsequently, certification by the Royal College.

1. **Eligibility Requirements**
   - Nominee is participating in (or is about to enter) a Fellowship program in an accredited Canadian University

2. **Institute (University or department)**
   - Nominates trainee into a Royal College PRA

3. **Nomination submitted to Royal College and application accepted**

4. **Competence Committee**
   - Reviews the PRA and evaluates nominee based on EPAs and Milestones of CBD specialty training. The Royal College is notified if the Competence Committee decides the nominee has successfully completed their PRA.

5. **Entry into PRA program**
   - (Trainee may continue in Fellowship program or withdraw to complete PRA). PRA of 3-6 months to be completed in a Canadian University or affiliated program

6. **Success at the exam results in Certification and Fellowship**

- Royal College acknowledges success at PRA and issues exam eligibility to trainee
PRA Requirements For Exam Eligibility and Certification

1. Total duration of assessment at discretion of program.
2. All EPAs in the discipline must be attested to by CC for exam eligibility.
   • Certification will be conferred with successful examination result
3. There must be evidence and documentation by CC for EPA attestation (any/all of the following):
   • Direct observation
   • Documented implicit based on previous experience and observations
   • Documentation of TTD (transition to discipline) and foundational EPAs as “nested” (built upon or necessary) in core/TTP EPAs
   • Discussion, justification and documentation as a CC
4. Clinical experiences for any EPAs for which CC requires direct observation data.
5. Accreditation surveys may review PRA files for documentation (as any candidate determined exam eligible and certified).
Previous Practice Eligibility Route (PER) for Specialists

- **5 years of practice in the specialty in Canada**
  - Credentials Review and determination of exam eligibility (including SOP*)
  - Assessment of Time in Practice in Canada (including SOP*)
  - Written Exam
  - Applied Exam (if applicable)

Certification Eligible

*Scope of Practice Review by Specialty Committee*
Integrated **Current** Practice Eligibility Route (PER) for Specialists

**If no previous practice, Includes assessment of Substantially Equivalent Training in Any Jurisdiction**

- **Written Exam**
  - Exam Eligible
  - Exam can be done at any point, including before entry to practice

- **Assessment of Time in Practice in Canada (including SOP*)**
  - Certification Eligible
  - Candidate for Certification

- **Integrated Current Practice Eligibility Route (PER) for Specialists**
  - 5 years of practice in the specialty with the final 2 years in Canada

*Scope of Practice Review by Specialty Committee
PER Future Model – Key Design Elements

Removes SOP review
Applicable to any jurisdiction
1-2 years only
Exam gives credible data for entry and completion

Proposal to remove before Council Sept. 22

May facilitate provisional license to enter PER

Focus of current development and funding discussions

Defensible last step to certification/licensure

Written exam

3-12 month in-practice assessment

Applied exam

Certification
Affiliates

• Scientists
• Honorary Fellows
• Posthumous Fellows
• Resident Affiliates
• Diplomate Affiliates
• Subspecialist Affiliates (SEAP)

For greater certainty, Affiliates are not Fellows of the Royal College