

POLICY TITLE	General Register – Canadian Standard Route
PURPOSE	Ensure all physicians, surgeons and osteopaths registered to practise medicine in Alberta have the required training and competencies to practise medicine safely.
SCOPE	This policy applies to physicians, surgeons and osteopaths who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are registered on the General Register to practise medicine independently and are the most responsible physician in the care of their patients.
NOTES	The Canadian standard is the set of academic qualifications that makes an applicant eligible for full licensure in every Canadian province and territory.

LAST REVISED: March 28, 2024

APPROVED BY COUNCIL: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

POLICY STATEMENT

Physicians, surgeons and osteopaths who are registered for independent practice and are the most responsible physician in the care of their patients must:

- 1) Have a **medical degree** from a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools at the time the candidate completed the program. Otherwise, they must have a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from a school in the United States, accredited by the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.
- 2) Be a **Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC)** **or** have successfully completed the equivalent United States Medical Licensure Examinations (USMLE).
- 3) Meet discipline-appropriate [postgraduate training requirements](#). The requirements for Family Medicine and other specialty disciplines are outlined below.
 - a) **Family Medicine** – The physician must successfully complete an accredited postgraduate training Family Medicine program in Canada **or** successfully complete a continuous Family Medicine postgraduate training program outside Canada and have a verifiable document of completion. If the program is outside Canada, it has to be at least 24 months long and include four months of community-based primary care and a minimum of eight weeks each of three of the following: Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery and Internal Medicine.
 - b) **Specialty Discipline** – The physician must successfully complete an accredited specialty discipline-specific postgraduate training program in Canada **or**

Successfully complete a continuous specialty discipline-specific postgraduate training program outside Canada and have a verifiable document of completion. If the program is outside Canada, it has to be at least 48 months long and substantively equivalent to the postgraduate training required by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).

- 4) Have **certification** from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the RCPSC **or** the College des Medecins du Quebec (CMQ).
- 5) Demonstrate [English language proficiency](#), if applicable.
- 6) Submit a satisfactory [criminal record check](#).
- 7) Demonstrate **currency of practice**. This includes evidence of being in discipline-specific postgraduate training or discipline-specific independent practice within the last three years.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Criminal Record Check policy](#)
- [English language proficiency](#)

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Registrar is given the authority to determine applications for registration under sections 28 to 30 of the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). Section 20 of the HPA allows the Registrar to delegate functions and duties to another person. The Registrar has delegated his duties and responsibility under Part 2 of the HPA to the Assistant Registrar responsible for registration.

APPROVAL

Council governing the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta

AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS

- [Health Professions Act](#)
- [Health Professions Act: Physicians, Surgeons, Osteopaths and Physician Assistants Profession Regulation](#)
- [CPSA Bylaws](#)