

POLICY TITLE	English Language Proficiency
PURPOSE	This policy is guided by the principles of transparency and fairness. CPSA’s objectives for requiring applicants and regulated members to provide proof of English language proficiency are to maintain the public’s confidence in the integrity of the profession and protect the public by ensuring that all regulated members are able to maintain communication with the public and all healthcare stakeholders.
SCOPE	This policy applies to physicians, surgeons, osteopaths and physician assistants who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for registration in Alberta
NOTES	In February 2021, the Board of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada accepted two additional tests of English language proficiency for inclusion in the Model Standards for Medical Registration in Canada

LAST REVISED: AUGUST 30, 2021
APPROVED BY COUNCIL: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

POLICY STATEMENT

Unless exempt, candidates are required to have completed one of the following English Language Proficiency test:

1. The IELTS Academic - completed within the 24 months before submitting their application to CPSA, achieving a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the four components in a single test.
2. The OET Medicine examination – completed within the 24 months before submitting their application to CPSA, achieving a minimum grade of B in each component in a single test.
3. The CELPIP General examination – completed within the 24 months before submitting their application to CPSA, achieving a minimum score of 9 in each component in a single test.

CPSA will also accept confirmation that the candidate has successfully completed the process to evaluate competency in English Language Proficiency (ELP) from the university that granted the candidate’s medical degree.

- This will apply to physicians accepted into postgraduate residencies, fellowships and visiting electives training through the University of Alberta/ Calgary’s Postgraduate Medical Education offices. Visiting elective trainees are exempt from ELP testing for the first 90 days.

- The physician will be exempt from any requirement for future testing if CPSA receives confirmation from the university that the candidate successfully completed the university's process to evaluate competency in ELP.

A candidate is **exempt** from ELP testing if:

- Either the undergraduate or postgraduate medical education, including residency and clinical fellowship training, was taken in English in one of the countries that have English as a first and/or native language; or
- The majority of their undergraduate and postgraduate medical education (>50%) was taken in English in one of the countries that have English as a first and/or native language; or
- The candidate is currently in independent practice in Canada or a country where English is the first and/or native language, and was required to achieve ELP prior to registration with another regulatory body.

The following countries are considered English-speaking as their first and/or native language:

Australia, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, US Virgin Islands, the Caribbean Islands of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Grenadines, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago.

A candidate from a country where English is widely spoken but not the first or native language will be considered for a waiver of ELP testing according to the criteria above.

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](#)