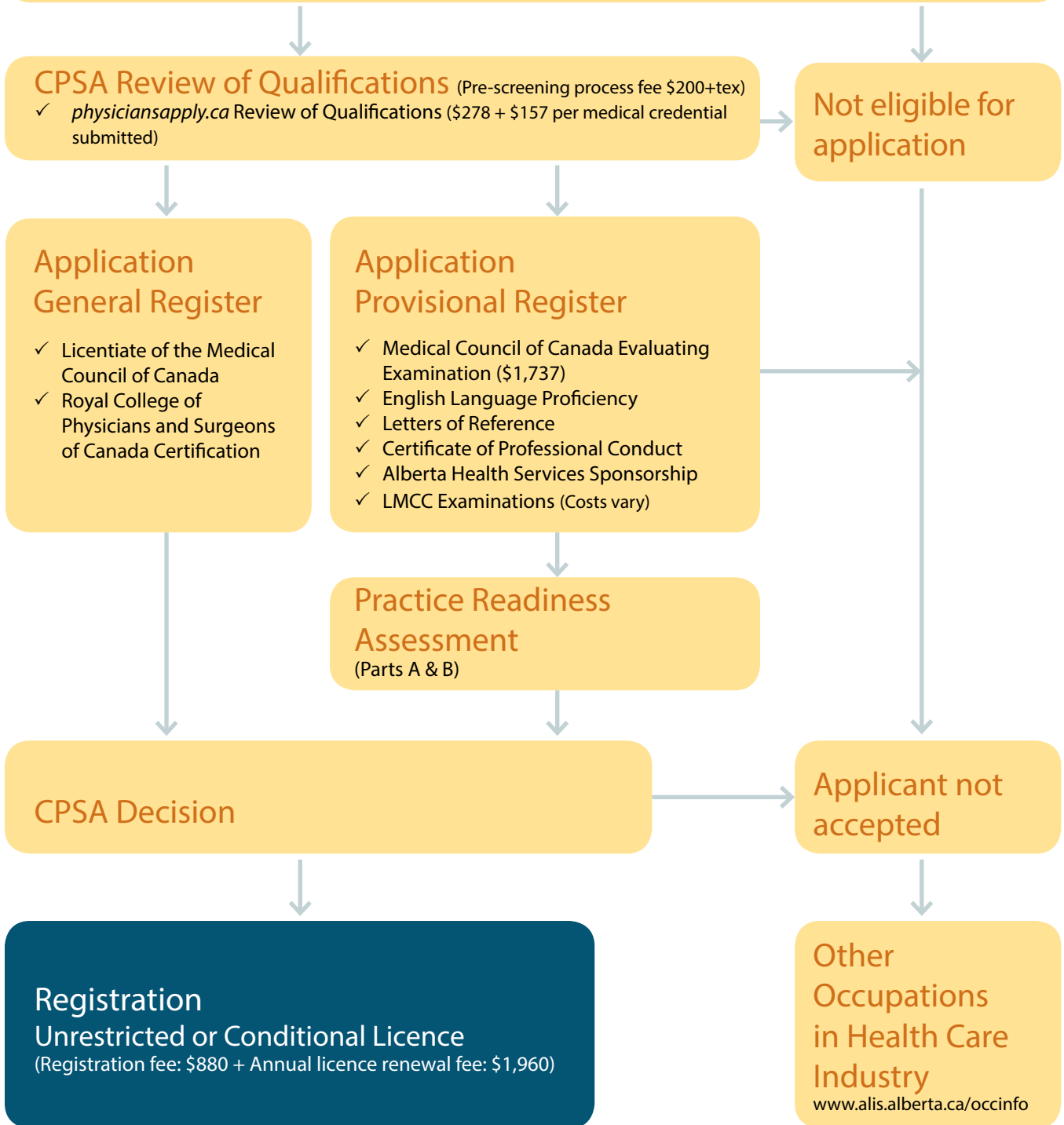


Specialist Physician

Self-Assessment: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) Specialty Practice Flow Chart



Specialist Physician

Licensing Process

Description of Occupation

Specialist Physicians diagnose and treat patients' diseases, physiological disorders, injuries and other health-related problems. Their job can include taking patients' medical histories and examining them, ordering, performing and interpreting medical tests to diagnose health problems, determine treatment options for patients and coordinate with other health professionals. Specialist Physicians may specialize in many different areas such as anesthesia, cardiology, emergency medicine, geriatrics, gynecology and obstetrics, intensive care, internal medicine, neurology, pediatrics, psychiatry, sport medicine, or surgery.

In Alberta, Specialist Physicians may work in hospitals, clinics, offices, and community settings.

Obtaining a Practice Permit in Alberta

To practice medicine in Alberta, Specialist Physicians must be registered members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) and be issued a practice permit.

There are many steps involved for International Medical Graduates to obtain a practice permit in Alberta. International applicants should expect the application process to take approximately 180 days or longer.

This profile outlines the general steps for International Medical Graduates with appropriate postgraduate training to become registered as Specialist Physicians.

Process:

- a) Start the licensing process by reviewing the CPSA's Specialist Practice self-assessment flow chart available on the CPSA website to see if you meet the eligibility requirements.
- b) If you believe you meet the requirements, you may complete the Review of Qualifications hosted by *physiciansapply.ca*, accessed through the CPSA website. The Review of Qualifications is not an application—it is a pre-screening process for the CPSA to determine if individuals are eligible to apply for a medical practice permit in Alberta.
- c) Once your Review of Qualifications form is completed, you will receive confirmation that the completed form and payment have been successfully submitted.
- d) The Review of Qualifications form will then be reviewed by the CPSA and if you meet all the requirements, the CPSA will send you further information outlining the application process.

Contact information and other resources are at the end of this document.

Requirements

There are two (2) routes to independent practice registration in Alberta available to all applicants, including International Medical Graduates. Please consult the CPSA website for up to date information prior to starting the application process. As of February 2016, candidates for specialty practice must satisfy the following criteria:

- Hold an acceptable medical or osteopathic degree issued by a school of medicine or osteopathy listed in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) that has carried on a medical education program for more than ten (10) years and offers a medical training program of at least forty-eight (48) months in duration.
- Meet the following requirements for the General Register:
 - Have completed a specialty residency program in Canada or a postgraduate program of discipline-specific specialty training outside of Canada (minimum length of 48 months);
 - Have obtained the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC);
and
 - Have received Certification of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC),

OR

- Meet the following requirements for the Provisional Register:
 - Have completed at least 48 months of discipline-specific postgraduate medical training and received recognition as a specialist, acceptable to the CPSA, in the country of training;
 - Have received a passing score on the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Exam (MCCEE);
 - Be sponsored by Alberta Health Services; and
 - Have successfully completed a Practice Readiness Assessment arranged by the CPSA.

Physicians who have been out of formal postgraduate training or independent practice for three (3) or more years must provide evidence of currency of practice or training before being considered eligible to apply for a practice permit.

Credential Verification

Eligible international graduate applicants must have their medical credentials verified through *physiciansapply.ca*. Interested candidates should start the credential verification process as soon as possible by opening an account with *physiciansapply* then following the instructions provided regarding credential verification. You will be required to submit a copy of your final medical diploma. Once your credentials have been submitted, you can log in to your *physiciansapply* account to track the status of the verification of each credential. After CPSA receives your Review of Qualifications from *physiciansapply*, they will assess if you are eligible to move forward in the application process.

Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination

To be entered on the Provisional Register Conditional Practice with the CPSA, candidates must have passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE).

This is a four (4) hour, one hundred and eighty (180) multiple-choice question exam offered in English and French in over 70 countries around the world. This examination is offered throughout the year and is an assessment of your basic medical knowledge in the main disciplines of medicine. This is a computer-based examination covering different medical areas including Child Health, Maternal Health, Adult Health, Mental Health, and Population Health and Ethics.

To be eligible to take this examination you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a graduate or a student from a medical school listed by one or more of the directories of medical schools approved by the MCC:
 - The Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) International Medical Education Directory (IMED)
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) World Directory of Medical Schools
- Have your credentials verified through *physicansapply*.

Practice Readiness Assessment

Candidates for the Provisional Register Conditional Practice will also need to undergo a Practice Readiness Assessment before being granted a permit to practice medicine. This assessment is arranged by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and determines whether the candidate is ready to enter into independent practice in Alberta. The assessment is not training. Failure of any part of the assessment will mean denial of registration and no practice permit will be issued.

All candidates who require an assessment must be sponsored by Alberta Health Services.

The assessment is comprised of two elements:

- Preliminary Clinical Assessment – this three-month clinical practice assessment is performed by an assessor assigned by the CPSA.
- Supervised Practice Assessment – this assessment requires an additional three months and is undertaken in the practice setting to which the candidate has been recruited.

Good Character and Reputation

All applicants for registration will also have their character and reputation assessed as part of the application process. As part of the application package, the CPSA will require:

- Letters of reference
- A Certificate of Professional Conduct from any jurisdiction where you have worked.

English Language Proficiency

English is the working language of the practice of medicine in Alberta. Please review the criteria for English Language Proficiency on the CPSA website. Unless exempt, candidates are required to have completed IELTS (International English Language Testing System) or TOEFL IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet Based Test) within 24 months before submitting their application to the College.

Immigration Status

There is no immigration status requirement to register with the CPSA.

Payment

The following fees must be submitted during the licensing process once the applicant has been approved. Fees are in Canadian dollars.

CPSA Review of Qualifications Fee	\$200 plus applicable taxes
CPSA Registration Fee	\$800
CPSA Annual Licence Renewal Fee	\$1,960 (in 2016)
<i>physiciansapply</i> Account Fee	\$278
<i>physiciansapply</i> Document Fee	\$157 per medical credential submitted for verification
MCCEE Examination Fee	\$1,737
*Fees are subject to change. Visit relevant websites for most up-to-date fees.	

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Specialist Physicians, according to the Alberta Health 2014 *Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Statistical Supplement* are:

Average Annual Gross Billings	\$459,138
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Notes:

- 40 per cent of gross billings cover overhead costs.
- Actual billings vary greatly between different specialties.

Employment Options

For more information about other health-related occupations, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles](#) (for more information on all occupations visit www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta
 2700, 10020-100 Street NW
 Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0N3
 Telephone: (780) 423-4764
 Email: info@cpsa.ab.ca
 Website: www.cpsa.ab.ca

Resources

This information is an overview of the licensing process. For the most current information on licensing for Specialist Physicians visit the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta website at www.cpsa.ca.

Application Forms and Information:

- [CPSA General Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [Specialty Practice Self-Assessment Flow Chart](#)
- [Apply for Independent Practice](#)
- [Supervised Practice – Alberta Clinical and Surgical Assistant Program](#)

Directories of Medical Schools Approved by the MCC:

- [International Medical Education Directory \(IMED\)](#)
- [The World Health Organization \(WHO\) World Directory of Medical Schools](#)

Credentials Verification:

- [physiciansapply](#)

Examinations:

- [Medical Council of Canada \(MCC\)](#)
- [MCC Evaluating Examination Information and Dates](#)
- [MCCEE Application Eligibility Information and Application Forms](#)
- [MCCEE Scoring Information](#)

Canadian Medical Register

- [Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada](#)
- [Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Exam Part I](#)
- [Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Exam Part II](#)

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC):

- [Credentials and Exams](#)
- [Alternative Pathways to Certification](#)