



## Licensing and Registration

# Emergency Licensing For *Pandemic Response*

Updated April 3, 2020

Like the continuously evolving pandemic response in Canada, Colleges are constantly reviewing and adjusting our processes, as well. Specific to the issuance of an Emergency Licence, our College models our Emergency Licence against that of other Colleges across Canada.

### Emergency Licence Eligibility

Our priority for granting Emergency Licences will be first and foremost requests from an RHA for recently retired physicians, graduating residents, and resident on-call duties licences. In response to a heightened surge request for granting Emergency Licences, we **may** assess physicians who are eligible for a Practice Ready Assessment (PRA). At present, the College will be prioritizing requests for an Emergency Licence eligibility as follows:

1. Physicians Previously Licensed With CPSNL (with no more than a 3 year gap in practice and not currently holding a licence in any jurisdiction)
  - Request from an RHA VP of Medical Services or Minister of Health for Pandemic assistance
  - CMPA Confirmation
  - Government Issued Photo ID
  
2. Physicians Currently Licensed in Another Canadian Jurisdiction
  - Request from an RHA VP of Medical Services or Minister of Health for Pandemic assistance
  - Certificate of Professional Conduct (CPC) from current Canadian jurisdiction

- CMPA Confirmation
- Government Issued Photo ID

### 3. Physicians Not Currently Licensed in Canada

- **May be** eligible for an Emergency Licence in extreme / catastrophic situations
- Requires application and assessment through the typical process (Physicians Apply)
- Specialists must be deemed eligible for a direct entry licence
- Family Medicine applicants who do not qualify for a Full Licence (i.e. those requiring a Practice Ready Assessment) may be provided an Emergency Licence for 30-days without completing a PRA. All such physicians, without exception, will be required to complete the PRA process before being considered for a Provisional Licence
- Family Medicine applicants who do not qualify for a Full Licence or PRA are not considered eligible for an Emergency Licence at this time

#### **Role of the Requesting Regional Health Authority**

Presently, it is a request from a VP of Medicine from an RHA that begins the Emergency Licensing process. It is important to note that because the RHA has requested that the College issue an *Emergency Licence* for a specific pandemic purpose, and the College's being unable to perform its typical process to fulfill this expedited and extraordinary request, it is very much dependent on the RHA to determine the who, what, and where of practice. If the RHA privileging committee approves placing a physician in practice without the typical rigor of the College licensing process and requirements (including, but not limited to, no application background questions, no source verification of documents, no criminal record checks, no reference checks, and no assessment of scope of practice), the College may grant Emergency Licences barring any unforeseen issues that arise as part of the abbreviated analysis we will apply in each specific case.

#### **Scope Expectations**

During a Pandemic situation, the College anticipates that Regional Health Authorities may, in emergency situations, rely on their internal Privileging Committee to assess situations where a physician may be safely and competently asked to adjust their scope of practice. In such emergency cases, the College will support the Privileging Committee process if determined that any change has been appropriately considered and vetted.