

COMMON STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL LICENSURE IN CANADA

This document lists the standards for full medical licensure¹ common to all MRAs in Canada. It relates each standard to the characterization of a competent physician as set out in the CanMEDS Framework². **Individual MRA websites should be consulted to confirm specific registration requirements.**

These standards are built on principles agreed upon by FMRAC and its members. Specifically, licensure processes should be evidence-based, transparent, and fair. Further, the processes should be consistent across all Canadian jurisdictions and should support the mobility of qualified physicians across Canadian jurisdictions.

Above all else, these standards must recognize that the protection of the public is the paramount responsibility of all medical regulators.

To these ends, FMRAC and its members will evaluate and improve the effectiveness of these standards over time.

Standard requirements for full licensure

1. *Medical knowledge and skills*

All MRAs require verifiable evidence of medical knowledge and skills in the form of education, training, and certification credentials. Medical Expert is the central physician role in the CanMEDS Framework and describes the ability to apply medical knowledge, clinical skills and professional values.

To meet this requirement, applicants for medical licensure in Canada must provide sufficient proof of:

- a) Medical Degree from a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS), *or* a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from a school in the United States accredited by the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation; **and**
- b) Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada; **and**
- c) Post-graduate training recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) or the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC); **and**
- d) Certification from the CFPC or the RCPSC or the Collège des médecins du Québec.

MRAs may accept alternative credentials including practice-based pathways for international applicants through provisional licensure and assessments acceptable to the MRA.

In accordance with the requirements of the Canada Free Trade Agreement, physicians who have achieved full licensure in one Canadian jurisdiction are deemed to have met the medical knowledge

¹ A medical licence to practise independently without terms, conditions, restrictions or limitations (other than, in some jurisdictions, that the physician is to practise only in the areas of medicine in which they are educated and experienced).

² A physician competency framework that identifies and describes the abilities physicians require to effectively meet the health care needs of the people they serve. Used here, it refers to both CanMEDS as developed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), and CanMEDS-FM, which shares core content but has been adapted by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) to focus on family medicine.

and skill requirements for full licensure in any other Canadian jurisdiction.

2. Good character requirement

Physicians must practise with decency, integrity and honesty, in a manner that ensures the protection of the public and the upholding of the public interest. They are expected to adhere to a code of ethics such as the CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism and competently perform activities associated with the CanMEDS Professional role.

All MRAs require applicants to provide evidence of past personal and professional conduct, that may include attestations, conduct records, references, and criminal records checks.

3. Fitness to practice (physician health)

The physical and mental status of a physician can impact their ability to safely perform activities across all CanMEDS roles. All MRAs require applicants to disclose whether they have any impairments that could impact their capacity to practise and may require evidence of capacity such as references or medical evaluations.

4. Language proficiency

All MRAs require applicants for registration to demonstrate a safe level of both technical and conversational proficiency in one of the official languages of the jurisdiction. Proficiency in the applicable Official Language of Canada³ is a critical enabler across multiple CanMEDS roles, most particularly Communicator and Collaborator (in Quebec the *Chartre de la langue française* governs the requirements of professionals regarding their knowledge of the language).

5. Currency of practice

All MRAs require applicants to demonstrate that their skills and knowledge have been maintained through ongoing clinical practice.

To be eligible for full licensure, MRAs require evidence of ongoing clinical activity to ensure up-to-date skills, knowledge and clinical judgement, with periods of low activity reviewed for impact on competency.

³ The Official Languages of Canada are English and French. An Official Language is a language that has been given a special legal status by the government of Canada.