



# Physicians

## Pathway to Registration for Internationally Educated Health Professionals (IEHP)

Physicians are regulated health professionals in New Brunswick. This means that you must be registered with the [College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick \(CPSNB\)](#)—the regulatory authority—to be authorized to practice and to use the titles of "duly qualified medical practitioner", "duly qualified practitioner", "legally qualified medical practitioner", "legally qualified physician", "physician" or any like words or expressions.

General practitioners and family physicians diagnose and treat the diseases, physiological disorders and injuries of patients. They provide primary contact and continuous care toward the management of patients' health. They usually work in private practice, including group or team practices, hospitals and clinics. Specialists in clinical and laboratory medicine diagnose and treat diseases and physiological or psychiatric disorders and act as consultants to other physicians. Specialists in clinical medicine usually work in private practice or in a hospital while those in laboratory medicine usually work in hospitals. Specialists in surgery perform and supervise surgical procedures. They usually work in hospitals.<sup>1</sup>

For work opportunities and other information, visit [NBHealthJobs.com](#) [1](#), [2](#), [3](#) or [NBjobs.ca](#) [1](#), [2](#), [3](#).



## STEPS TO REGISTRATION

The CPSNB regulates the profession through several different licence types including Regular, Defined, Special, Border Area, Courtesy, and the newer Clinical Assistant. Most internationally trained physicians (ITP) will follow the practice/training recognition pathway or the practice ready assessment (PRA) pathway for family medicine/general practice (FM/GP). It is recommended that you [review the CPSNB pathways](#) and determine which is most applicable to your situation.

### PART 1: COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

**Step 1 – Academic Credentials:** The minimum educational requirement to practice in New Brunswick is a medical degree from a school acceptable to Canada listed in the [World Directory of Medical Schools](#). To begin the assessment process, you must create a Medical Council of Canada (MCC) [physiciansapply.ca](#) account, upload the required documentation, and submit a source verification request of your credentials. Current fees can be found [here](#). Other medical competency requirements include successfully completing a training program relevant to the intended discipline of practice, and current clinical practice for at least 450 hours within three years preceding application.

**Step 2 – Language Fluency:** If your education was provided solely in either English or French<sup>2</sup>, and if English or French was the primary language of patient care, you will not require a language proficiency test. All others must provide a language proficiency assessment that meets the requirements set out in the CPSNB policy. Third-party testing fees may apply.

<sup>1</sup> National Occupational Classification (NOC) definition [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#).

<sup>2</sup> English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick.

## PART 2: REGISTRATION WITH THE NEW BRUNSWICK REGULATORY BODY

**Step 3 – Application for Medical Registration (AMR):** Through the [physiciansapply.ca](https://physiciansapply.ca) portal, you may submit an AMR to the CPSNB. The MCC and CPSNB fees can be found [here](#) and [here](#). After reviewing your application, the CPSNB will send a decision letter. If you are deemed eligible for licensure, you will be required to provide the CPSNB with additional evidence of good character and fitness to practice.

### Step 4 – Attain CPSNB Special License:

#### Practice/Training Recognition Pathway

##### Eligibility Requirements:

You are deemed eligible if you attained your credentials from an approved jurisdiction determined by the [College of Family Physicians of Canada \(CFPC\)](#) or the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada \(RCPC\)](#). All others must undergo an assessment and receive a practice eligibility Ruling Letter from the respective college by applying and paying the [RCPC fee](#) or the CFPC fee. You also must have attained certification in your home country or completed two years of clinical training in Canada or the US.

##### Regional Health Authority (RHA) Sponsorship:

You must be sponsored by one of the RHAs (Horizon or Vitalité) who issues practice privileges in the province. You may then receive a Special Licence from CPSNB and practice under the supervision / oversight of a trained physician assessor. Medical Register and

#### Practice Ready Assessment (PRA) Pathway – for FM/GP only

**Eligibility Requirements:** Your core rotations during post-graduate training must include eight weeks in FM/GP and four weeks in each of surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, and psychiatry. You must also have successfully completed two years of post-graduate training resulting in FM/GP certification plus one year of licensed independent practice; OR one year of post-graduate training resulting in FM/GP certification plus two years of licensed independent practice.

**Pass MCCQE Part 1:** Passing the [Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination \(MCCQE\) Part I](#) is a mandatory step. Through your [physiciansapply.ca](https://physiciansapply.ca) account you may register for the exam and pay your fee.

**Therapeutics Decision-Making (TDM) Examination:** Candidates who meet all the pre-screening eligibility criteria (including passing the MCCQE Part 1) may be referred by PRA-NB to sit the [MCC TDM examination](#). The fee is payable to the CPSNB.

**Interview with PRA-NB Panel:** You must complete an interview with the PRA-NB Selection Panel to determine suitability to practice family medicine in NB.

##### Matching Process with the Regional Health Authorities (RHA):

Successful PRA-NB interviewees will be referred to the RHAs (Horizon and Vitalité), for interviews with and their medical staff. The RHAs will provide the names of suitable candidates to the PRA-NB for the final selection process.

**Final Selection:** A final review of eligible candidates' files, MCC TDM results, interview scores, and RHA matching results will be assessed by the PRA-NB program for final selection.

**Clinical Field Assessment (CFA):** Selected candidates will be placed in a 12-week clinical assessment. They will practice under the supervision of a trained physician assessor to demonstrate their readiness to work in the Canadian health care system. Current fee can be found [here](#).

**Return of Service:** Successful candidates must apply to the CPSNB for a Special License (to practice under the supervision / oversight of a trained physician assessor) and enter a return of service agreement

Annual Licence fees can be found [here](#).

with the Department of Health to practice in an area of high need within the province. Medical Register and Annual Licence fees can be found [here](#).

**Step 5 – Defined Licence:** Following positive assessment results while holding your Special Licence, you may progress to a Defined License and practice independently within the province provided you receive support from an RHA to be assessed for an independent practice.

**Step 6 – Regular Licence:** At any time, you may pursue the [CFPC](#) or the [RCPSC](#) certification exam (provided you meet the eligibility requirements) and then update your profile with the CPSNB for a Regular Licence.

**Navigation Services:** To obtain assistance through the process, connect with your health professions navigator at [NBHealthJobs.com](http://NBHealthJobs.com).



## REGISTRATION COSTS AND TIMELINE<sup>3</sup>

The total fees to achieve a Special Licence to practice can vary considerably depending upon your individual situation and the pathway you choose. Average costs are in the order of \$8,600.

Processing time for each organization begins when all necessary documentation is received. The practice / training recognition pathway may result in a Special Licence in as little as 6 months, whereas the PRA pathway may take about a year depending upon when you schedule your exams and how many retakes are required.

**Pre-arrival:** You may begin your credential assessment with [MCC physiciansapply.ca](http://MCCphysiciansapply.ca) before you arrive in Canada.



## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

### Working in Canada

To be legally entitled to work in Canada, you must possess documentation showing that you are either a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or hold a valid work permit. For assistance with immigration, please visit [Immigration New Brunswick](#).

### Other Professional Organizations (not referenced above)

- [New Brunswick Medical Society \(NBMS\)](#)



<sup>3</sup> Fee and timeline estimates are as of July 2024 and are subject to change. Individual situations may increase costs and timelines—some examples include: document translation into English or French, international couriers, document notarization, travel and living to exam sites, any professional liability insurance requirements, etc.