

of physician



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RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONS FOR PRACTISING THE PROFESSION

The practice of the profession of physician consists in assessing and diagnosing any deficiency in the health of human beings and in preventing and treating illness to maintain or restore health.

In the practice of medicine the activities set out in Appendix 1 are reserved to physicians.

Physicians practice an exclusive profession. They must hold a permit from the *Collège des médecins du Québec* (the *Collège*) and be registered on the *Collège's* roll to:

- practise the profession;
- use the reserved title of "physician."

EXCLUSIVE PROFESSION

19,374 MEMBERS

OBTAINING THE PERMIT AND SPECIALIST'S CERTIFICATE

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE PERMIT AND SPECIALIST'S CERTIFICATE

To obtain a permit or a specialist's certificate, the candidate must hold a diploma of doctor of medicine awarded in Québec as provided for by regulation or a diploma recognized as equivalent by the *Collège*. Candidates holding a diploma awarded in Québec or elsewhere must also:

- complete postdoctoral training in family medicine or in a specialty in a Québec faculty of medicine or, if the candidate's training was completed in a program not accredited by the *Collège*, be granted recognition of postdoctoral training equivalence by the *Collège*;
- pass the family medicine or specialty final examination and successfully complete the training activity on the legal, ethical and organizational aspects of medical practice in Québec (ALDO-Québec);
- have knowledge of the French language appropriate to practice the profession.

Permanent residency or Canadian citizenship is not required to obtain the permit.

Produced in collaboration with the:

Practical advice

If you plan to practise the profession of physician in Québec, you would be well advised to contact the Collège prior to your arrival in Québec to find out about the rules regulating access to the profession and to take the first steps toward obtaining your permit and registering on the Collège roll. Moreover, certain immigration procedures may require that you contact the Collège. Should this be the case, you will be notified by your immigration counsellor.

*The Collège may issue a restrictive permit to a candidate holding a diploma earned outside of Canada and the United States to practise in a clinical setting in order to fulfil a medical staffing need provided the candidate's discipline is currently being recruited and if certain conditions are met, including the candidate's having practised medicine for **at least 12 consecutive months** within the last two years. Recrutement Santé Québec (RSQ) will inform you about the possibility of obtaining this permit and guide and advise you each step of the way. The RSQ will also assign you to an establishment within the health-care system that is in need of medical staff.*

EQUIVALENCE OF A DIPLOMA OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

To be recognized as equivalent, a diploma of doctor of medicine awarded outside Québec must attest that its holder possesses a level of knowledge and clinical experience equivalent to that acquired by the holder of a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation.

Consequently, diploma equivalence is recognized:

- if the diploma of doctor of medicine is awarded by a Canadian university situated outside of Québec and the faculty of medicine is accredited by the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges on the date the diploma is awarded;
- if the diploma of doctor of medicine is awarded in the United States by an establishment or faculty of medicine accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education on the date the diploma is awarded. The diploma of doctor of osteopathy is also recognized provided the school is accredited by the Bureau of Professional Education of the American Osteopathic Association and the diploma holder has passed the examinations determined by the Collège;
- if the diploma of doctor of medicine is awarded outside of Canada and the United States and the school or faculty is listed in the "World Directory of Medical Schools" of the World Health Organization on the date the diploma is awarded and the diploma holder has passed the examinations determined or approved by the Collège.

Useful information

The examinations determined by the Collège are intended to assess whether the diploma holder's knowledge and clinical experience are comparable to that acquired by the holder of a Québec diploma as provided for by regulation, and to evaluate the candidate's knowledge of the French language.

It is recommended that candidates pass the examinations required for recognition of the equivalence of their diploma of doctor of medicine prior to their arrival in Québec, which will allow them to continue practising medicine during the process.

Procedure for achieving recognition of diploma equivalence

- 1 You must apply to the *Collège* in writing. The form provided for this purpose can be downloaded from its website. If you do not have access to a computer, the *Collège* will provide you with the form on request.
- 2 You must provide the *Collège* with the following documents:
 - ☐ Birth certificate
 - ☐ Transcripts of medical studies
 - ☐ Diploma of doctor of medicine
 - ☐ Curriculum vitae including a list of publications, where applicable
 - ☐ Recent passport-type photo with your signature on the back and authenticated by a witness
 - ☐ Cheque or postal money order in the amount of \$400 to cover the cost of reviewing the file. These fees are non-refundable.
 - ☐ Proof of successful completion of the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination, where applicable
 - ☐ Proof of successful completion of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination, Parts I and II, where applicable
 - ☐ Proof of successful completion of the *Office québécois de la langue française* French exam, where applicable
 - ☐ Attestations of postdoctoral training periods in family medicine or in a specialty (internship, residency and other), where applicable
Every document must be signed by the dean of the faculty of medicine or by the executive director of the establishment where the periods were served and **must specify the dates on which they began and ended for each discipline.**
 - ☐ Proof of successful completion of postgraduate training in family medicine or in a specialty, where applicable
 - ☐ Specialist's certificate, where applicable
 - ☐ Permit to practise medicine awarded outside Québec, where applicable
 - ☐ Certificate of professional conduct or membership in good standing issued by the medical order of the country in which you practise medicine, where applicable

Only applications duly completed and accompanied by all of the required documents can be processed by the *Collège*.

All documents must be **certified true copies of the original**. For documents written in a language other than French or English, the candidate must also supply a French or English translation by an accredited translator or authenticated by official authorities.

- 3 On receipt of the complete file, the *Collège* will indicate the examinations to be passed in order to obtain recognition of the equivalence of your diploma.
- 4 Once you have passed the prescribed examinations, you will receive written confirmation from the *Collège* respecting recognition of the equivalence of your diploma.

Useful information

- The examinations determined by the *Collège* leading to recognition of the equivalence of the diploma of doctor of medicine are as follows:
 - The Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE)
 - The Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination, part I (MCCQE I)
 - The Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination, part II (MCCQE II) or the *Collège's* Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) of medical clinical sciences
 - The Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) French language examination
- The MCCEE is offered in Montréal, Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, Saskatoon, London, Paris, Hong Kong, Muscat and Riyadh. The Medical Council of Canada (MCC) requires new candidates to pay fees of \$1,000.
- The MCC requires candidates to pay fees of \$680 to register for the MCCQE I.
- For more information on the examinations and the organization, visit the MCC website (www.mcc.ca).
- Candidates must pass the French language examination of the OQLF. However, they may be exempted from these examinations if they meet the requirements of the Charter of the French Language.
- The fees payable to the *Collège* for the OSCE of medical clinical sciences are \$850.
- The *Collège* holds an OSCE of medical clinical sciences examination session once a year. Candidates who fail are entitled to rewrite the examination no more than twice within the next two years. The failure rate is high.
- Candidates may write the examinations in French or in English, except of course for the knowledge of the French language exam.
- Candidates whose diploma in medicine is not recognized as equivalent may apply for admission to a training program to become a doctor of medicine in a Québec faculty of medicine (undergraduate studies). Admission to these programs of study is however limited and highly competitive. In addition, candidates must meet the admission requirements of the educational institution and make provisions for the related tuition fees.
- Candidates considering undertaking medical studies in Québec must have at least a minimum knowledge of English since most of the medical textbooks are in English.

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING IN FAMILY MEDICINE OR IN A SPECIALTY

Only candidates holding a Québec diploma as provided for by regulation or a diploma recognized as equivalent by the *Collège* are eligible for a paid residency position in a postdoctoral training university program (residency).

Postdoctoral training in family medicine or in a specialty consists of a series of training periods served in training sites approved by the *Collège*. In Québec, postdoctoral training in family medicine lasts 24 months. Postdoctoral training in a specialty lasts 60 months, except for cardiology, cardiac surgery and neurosurgery, which require 72 months.

Once they have obtained recognition of the equivalence of their diploma of doctor of medicine, candidates may apply for recognition of the equivalence of their postdoctoral training provided that they have completed training in family medicine or in a specialty equivalent in duration and content to **half** that required by regulation.

To do so, candidates must send the *Collège* a written application accompanied by documents attesting to postdoctoral training in family medicine or in a speciality (internship, residency, other), as applicable. Each document must be signed by the dean of the faculty of medicine or by the chief executive officer of the establishment where the training was completed and **specify the starting and termination date of the training for each discipline**. Fees of \$350 are charged to cover the cost of reviewing the file. These fees are not refundable.

In the weeks following receipt of the application, the *Collège* will notify the candidate of the discipline in which the equivalence of all or a part of the postdoctoral training can be recognized. However, only after the candidate has completed a 12-month classification training period, will the *Collège* indicate whether total or partial recognition of the equivalence is granted. In the event of partial recognition, candidates will be required to complete a training in a university program approved by the *Collège*.

To undertake a classification training period, the candidate must first obtain a residency position in a discipline determined by the *Collège*.

Useful information

- *Before applying to the Collège for recognition of postdoctoral training equivalence and paying the required fees, candidates may wait for confirmation of their admission to a Québec faculty of medicine.*
- *The decision to apply for recognition of the equivalence of postdoctoral training and the most appropriate time to make this application are strictly up to the candidate.*

If candidates cannot provide proof of completion of a postdoctoral training program in family medicine or in a specialty equivalent in duration and content to half that required by regulation **or** if they do not wish to apply to the *Collège* for recognition of postdoctoral training equivalence, they will have to apply for admission to an approved postdoctoral training program to serve a complete period of residency, in the same capacity as a holder of a Québec diploma.

To obtain a residency position the candidate must apply for admission to a postdoctoral training program in medicine in a Québec faculty of medicine through the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS). However, the number of paid residency positions is limited. Since the faculties of medicine are responsible for assigning these positions, the candidate must meet the university's admission requirements.

Useful information

- ***Recognition by the Collège of the equivalence of a diploma of doctor of medicine or potential eligibility for a classification training period does not guarantee access to a residency position.***
- ***Given the limited number of places available in postdoctoral training programs, there is no guarantee that candidates will be admitted to the desired faculty and specialty.***
- ***Candidates who have applied for recognition of postdoctoral training equivalence may apply for a residency in disciplines other than those determined by the Collège. However, candidates admitted in another discipline will not be able to undertake the 12-month classification training period and will have to serve a complete residency.***
- ***If you obtain a position, you must apply to the Collège for a training and registration card. Once you have obtained this card, you will have the status of a resident and will become a member of the Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec. You will be compensated according to the salary scale set out in the residents' collective agreement.***
- ***Candidates may not undertake residency training at their own expense, nor is training acquired as a clinical fellow recognized as equivalent.***

FAMILY MEDICINE OR SPECIALTY FINAL EXAMINATION

Only candidates who have completed postdoctoral training in a Québec faculty of medicine or whose postdoctoral training is recognized as equivalent by the Collège are eligible to write the family medicine or specialty final examination.

The purpose of the family medicine or specialty final examination is to determine whether the candidate is capable of practising family medicine or the specialty independently.

The family medicine examination has two components: i.e. the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Qualifying Examination, Part II (MCCQE II); and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) short answer management problems (SAMP) and simulated office oral (SOO).

The specialty examinations are administered by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).

Each year, two family medicine examination sessions are held, as well as one examination session in each specialty listed in Appendix 2.

All candidates must also successfully participate in a training activity on the legal, ethical and organizational aspects of the practice of medicine in Québec (ALDO-Québec). This training activity is offered by the Collège in Montréal, Québec City and Sherbrooke several times a year for a fee of \$50. A document is available on the Collège website to help candidates prepare for this examination.

Useful information

Candidates may write an examination in French or in English.

FAMILY MEDICINE OR SPECIALTY FINAL EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

To be eligible for the final examination, you must demonstrate that your postdoctoral training is deemed complete or that on the date set for the examination:

- you have completed 18 months of postdoctoral training in family medicine;
or
- you are registered in the final year of your specialty training;
or
- you have been granted recognition of the equivalence of your postdoctoral training.

You must also:

- ☐ obtain a letter of eligibility from the organization administering the examination;
- ☐ register with the organization administering the examination;
- ☐ pay the registration fees prescribed by the organization administering the examination.

Useful information

- ***Candidates must take the family medicine or specialty final examination no later than two years after the end of their postdoctoral training.***
- ***Candidates for the final family medicine or specialty examination who do not meet the eligibility conditions set by the CFPC or the RCPSC may nevertheless write the examination if they comply with the conditions determined by the Collège. They should then, in all cases, submit their application for eligibility and register for the examination with the Collège. In these circumstances, registration and successful completion of an examination administered by the CFPC or the RCPSC will not lead to the issuance of an attestation in family medicine by the CFPC or the RCPSC specialist's certificate.***

APPROPRIATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

In accordance with the Charter of the French Language, professional orders can only deliver regular permits to individuals who have a knowledge of the French language appropriate to the practice of their profession. Therefore, candidates need to meet this legal requirement and those above mentioned to obtain a permit.

Useful information

- ***Individuals having completed at least three years of full-time secondary or post-secondary education in French are recognized as having sufficient knowledge of the French language.***
- ***Candidates who have not taken postdoctoral training in French are not considered to have an appropriate knowledge of the French language to practice the profession of physician.***

Candidates whose files do not indicate that they have appropriate knowledge of French must pass the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) French examination. The Collège will forward the examination registration form once the application for recognition of diploma or training equivalence has been submitted.

Those candidates may, however, obtain a temporary permit for no more than one year if they meet the requirements for practising the profession. This permit will be issued by the Collège, together with a registration form for the OQLF French exam.

The temporary permit may be renewed up to three times with the authorization of the OQLF if deemed in the public interest. For each renewal, candidates must sit examinations held in compliance with OQLF regulations. Once the temporary permit has expired, the candidate must pass the OQLF examination to obtain a regular permit. This examination is free of charge and is held in Montréal.

Candidates who have passed the OQLF French exam to obtain recognition of the equivalence of their diploma of doctor of medicine will not be required to rewrite this exam to obtain their permit to practise.

Issuance of a permit or specialist's certificate

If you have met all the terms and conditions for obtaining a permit and an attestation in family medicine or a specialist's certificate, you must:

- *complete the permit application using the Collège form;*
- *provide two recent passport-type photos signed and authenticated by a witness;*
- *pay, by cheque or postal money order, a fee of \$625 to cover the cost of issuing a permit to practise.*

REVIEW MECHANISMS AND EXAMINATION REWRITES

EQUIVALENCE APPLICATIONS

Candidates may request a hearing with the Order to review its decision if recognition of a diploma or training equivalence was refused. All review applications must be made in accordance with the deadline provided for by regulation. The Order must allow candidates to submit their observations before handing down its decision. The final decision may not be appealed.

FAMILY MEDICINE OR SPECIALTY FINAL EXAMINATION

Candidates who are not considered eligible for the family medicine or specialty examination may apply to the organization for a review of its decision on the basis of new facts. Review applications must be submitted within the prescribed timeframe and a fee will be required.

Candidates who fail an examination may request a review of the organization's decision if they believe that the cause of their failure involved a factor related to the examination procedure. Review applications must be submitted within the prescribed timeframe and a fee will be required.

According to the Collège's rules, candidates who fail the family medicine or specialty examination may rewrite the examination no more than twice within the next two years and must pay the prescribed fees.

Useful information

The Collège may require a candidate to complete additional postdoctoral training period before rewriting the examination. The candidate will be notified of this decision in writing.

REGISTRATION ON THE ROLL OF THE COLLÈGE DES MÉDECINS DU QUÉBEC

To practise the profession and use the reserved title, the permit holder must be registered on the Collège's roll. To register, you must:

- pay the annual dues;
- take out professional liability insurance.

Annual dues are \$950, plus \$24.80 as contribution to the financing of the *Office des professions du Québec*. Annual professional liability insurance fees will vary according to the physician's discipline and the region in which he or she practises.

References

- *Medical Act (R.S.Q., c. M-9).*
- *Regulation respecting the terms and conditions for the issuance of the permit and specialist's certificate by the Collège des médecins du Québec (c. M-9, r.7.2).*



F O R M O R E I N F O R M A T I O N

Information on the conditions for practising the profession in Québec

- **Collège des médecins du Québec**

2170, boul. René-Lévesque Ouest
Montréal (Québec) H3H 2T8

In Montréal:
514 933-4441

Elsewhere in Québec:
1 888 633-3246

Fax: 514 933-5167

Internet: www.cmq.org

E-mail: info@cmq.org

Information on obtaining a restrictive permit

- **Recrutement Santé Québec**

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

Internet: www.msss.gouv.qc.ca

E-mail: rsq.md@msss.gouv.qc.ca

Information on certification and examinations for evaluating knowledge of the French language

- **Office québécois de la langue française**

www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca

Information on admission to a postdoctoral training program

- **Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec**

www.crepuq.qc.ca

Information on the Canadian Resident Matching Service

- **Canadian Resident Matching Service**

www.carms.ca

Information on the Medical Council of Canada examination

- **Medical Council of Canada**

www.mcc.ca

Information on the family medicine or specialty examination

- **College of Family Physicians of Canada**

www.cfpc.ca

- **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada**

www.medical.org

Information on Québec's professional system and the Professional Code

- **Office des professions du Québec**

www.opq.gouv.qc.ca

- **Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec**

www.professions-quebec.org

Information and assistance with regard to procedures pertaining to a professional order

- **Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles**

www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In the Montréal region:

Contact the *Service d'information sur les professions et métiers réglementés*
514 864-9191

Elsewhere in Québec or abroad:

Contact the [Immigration-Québec service](#) in your settlement area

Access to laws and regulations

- **Les Publications du Québec**

www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca

Information on the job market in Québec

- **Emploi-Québec**

emploi.quebec.net

- **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation**

www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca

You can also obtain the brochure *The practice of a profession governed by a professional order*

On the Internet:

www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In Québec:

at an [Immigration-Québec service](#)

Abroad:

at the [Bureau d'immigration du Québec](#) serving your territory

Notice

The information in this document was current in May 2008. It was obtained from various sources and in no way replaces current legislation and regulations.

The fees mentioned herein are subject to change. They are in Canadian dollars and include all applicable taxes.

The information contained in the French version of the fact sheet has been validated by the Collège des médecins du Québec. The English translation has not been validated, although it is consistent with the French version.



PRACTISING THE PROFESSION OF PHYSICIAN

Activities reserved to physicians

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE ARE RESERVED TO PHYSICIANS:

- 1° diagnosing illnesses;
- 2° prescribing diagnostic examinations;
- 3° using diagnostic techniques that are invasive or entail risks of injury;
- 4° determining medical treatment;
- 5° prescribing medications and other substances;
- 6° prescribing treatment;
- 7° using techniques or applying treatments that are invasive or entail risks of injury, including aesthetic procedures;
- 8° providing clinical monitoring of the condition of patients whose state of health is problematic;
- 9° providing pregnancy care and conducting deliveries;
- 10° making decisions as to the use of restraint measures.

SPECIALTIES FOR WHICH THE *COLLÈGE* ISSUES A SPECIALIST'S CERTIFICATE

Anatomical Pathology
Anesthesiology
Cardiac Surgery
Cardiology
Clinical Immunology and Allergy
Community Health
Dermatology
Diagnostic Radiology
Emergency Medicine
Endocrinology
Gastroenterology
General Surgery
Geriatric Medicine
Hematology
Internal Medicine
Medical Biochemistry
Medical Genetics
Medical Oncology
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
Nephrology
Neurology
Neurosurgery
Nuclear medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ophthalmology
Orthopedic Surgery
Otolaryngology
Pediatrics
Physiatry
Plastic Surgery
Pneumology
Psychiatry
Radiation Oncology
Rheumatology
Urology