

of pharmacist



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RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONS FOR PRACTISING THE PROFESSION

The practice of pharmacy consists in determining and ensuring the proper use of medications, particularly to identify and prevent pharmacotherapeutic problems, and in preparing, storing and delivering medications in order to maintain or restore health.

The following activities in the practice of pharmacy are reserved to pharmacists:

1. issuing a pharmaceutical opinion;
2. preparing medications;
3. selling medications;
4. supervising medication therapy;
5. initiating or adjusting medication therapy, according to a prescription, making use, where applicable, of appropriate laboratory analyses;
6. prescribing and personally dispensing emergency oral contraception medication.

EXCLUSIVE PROFESSION

7,300 MEMBERS

The practice of pharmacy also includes the communication of information on the prescribed use or, failing a prescription, on the recognized use of medications, and the making of a record for each person to whom a pharmacist delivers medication on prescription and the pharmacological study of such record.

Pharmacists practise an exclusive profession. They must hold a permit from the *Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec* and be registered on the roll of the Order to:

- practise the profession;
- use the reserved title of “pharmacist.”

Useful information

- *To practise the profession in a health or social services institution, the pharmacist should preferably hold a graduate diploma (master’s) in pharmacy or its equivalent. The master’s program lasts 16 months and includes a 12-month training period.*
- *In Québec, only a pharmacist may be the owner of a pharmacy. In other sectors such as education, industry and research, a permit is not required but is recommended. In particular, the awarding of certain scholarships or research grants is often contingent on Order membership.*

Produced in collaboration with the:



ORDRE DES PHARMACIENS DU QUÉBEC

Immigration
et Communautés
culturelles

Québec



OBTAINING THE PERMIT

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE PERMIT

To obtain a permit, candidates must hold a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation, or have a diploma or training recognized as being equivalent by the Order. Candidates holding a diploma issued in Québec or elsewhere must also:

- complete an internship or have the equivalence of their internship recognized by the Order;
- have knowledge of the French language appropriate to the practice of the profession.

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

Practical advice

If you plan to practise the profession of pharmacist in Québec, you would be well advised to contact the Order prior to your departure to find out about the rules regulating access to the profession and to begin the steps you will have to take to obtain your permit and apply for membership in the Order. Moreover, certain immigration procedures may require you to contact the Order. Should this be the case, you will be notified by your immigration counsellor.

DIPLOMA OR TRAINING EQUIVALENCE

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

Consequently, equivalence is recognized if the diploma was obtained upon completion of at least eight semesters of university studies comprising not fewer than 15 weeks of activities and comprising a minimum of 125 credits (each credit correspond to 45 hours of course attendance or personal work).

The credits must be allocated as follows:

- biomedical science;
- chemical and pharmaceutical sciences;
- pharmacological science;
- practical and clinical pharmacy;
- socio-economic and administrative aspects.

If the diploma for which an equivalence application is made was obtained more than five years before the application and, considering the developments in the profession, the knowledge certified by the diploma no longer corresponds to the knowledge currently being taught, candidates may be granted a training equivalence if they have attained the required level of knowledge and skills since being awarded their diploma.

Useful information

In Québec, admission to a university program generally requires the successful completion of 13 years of elementary, secondary and college education.

To assess training equivalence, the following factors are taken into consideration: the nature and content of the courses passed, the marks obtained and the number of related credits, the university diplomas issued in Québec or outside Québec, the training periods successfully completed and any other relevant continuing training or upgrading activities, the nature and duration of the relevant clinical experience, as well as the fact that the candidate has passed the evaluating examination administered by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada, where applicable.

Procedure for achieving recognition of diploma or training equivalence

- 1 You must complete the Order's application forms, which are accessible on the Order's web site, and provide the following documents:
 - ☐ An academic record, including a description of the courses taken, the number of credits and corresponding transcripts
 - ☐ All diplomas held
 - ☐ Official proof of your right to practise pharmacy outside Québec (permit, registration certificate, licence), where applicable
 - ☐ A letter of recommendation from your professional order, where applicable
 - ☐ An attestation of your successful completion of a training period or any other continuing training or upgrading activities in pharmacy, where applicable
 - ☐ An attestation and description of your relevant work experience in pharmacy, where applicable
 - ☐ A list of your relevant publications, where applicable
 - ☐ An attestation confirming that you have passed the evaluating examination administered by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada, where applicable
 - ☐ A certificate **or** act of birth **or** civil extract **or** proof of Canadian citizenship
 - ☐ A photograph taken within the last year, with your signature on the back
 - ☐ A cheque or postal money order in the amount of \$564.38 to cover the cost of reviewing your file
These fees are non-refundable.
- 2 In order to make a decision on your training equivalence, the Order may require you to pass an examination or complete a training period, or to do both.
- 3 The Order will send you written notice of its decision respecting recognition of your diploma or training equivalence. If the Order recognizes partial equivalence, it will inform you of the courses, training sessions or exams that must be successfully completed within the allotted time for full equivalence to be granted.

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

All documents must be **originals** or **certified true copies of the originals**. Documents in a language other than French or English that are submitted in support of your application must be accompanied by a French translation, certified under oath by the translator.

Useful information

- *The Order requires most foreign-trained candidates to complete a program of study in a Québec university before it will grant training equivalence. The program is comprised of courses on pharmaceutical legislation and regulations, the health system, as well as pharmaceutical care and the clinical applications of the profession as it is practised in Québec. Candidates must satisfy the university's admission requirements and provide for payment of the relevant tuition fees.*
- *The two Québec universities offering the program of study have a very limited capacity to absorb students, which can cause long waiting periods. In fact, since this program reserves only a few places for persons trained abroad, candidates are selected particularly on the basis of the excellence of their academic record.*

INTERNSHIP

The objective of the internship is to provide practical supervision to candidates in an authentic professional setting in a community pharmacy (dispensary or city) or a pharmacy in a health institution, enabling the candidates to practise, in particular:

- the preparation and sale of prescription and non-prescription medications;
- the communication of information to patients and health care professionals on the prescribed use of given medications or, where there is no prescription, on the recognized use of medications;
- the organization and critical examination of the documentation required in a dispensary;
- the drawing up, updating, pharmacological study and use of patient records;
- the supervision of medication therapy.

An internship lasts up to 600 hours covering a period of not less than 15 weeks and not more than one year. It is carried out under the supervision of one or several tutors approved of by the Order.

INTERNSHIP REGISTRATION

To register for an internship, you must have obtained recognition of your diploma or training equivalence and have sent the required form to the Order.

If you have satisfied the internship requirements, the Order will inform you in writing. Should this not be the case, the Order will inform you of the elements lacking and the procedure that must be followed to meet these requirements.

Useful information

- *It may be difficult to find internships in community pharmacies and health institutions. An internship might not be remunerated.*
- *In certain very specific cases, foreign-trained candidates may apply for recognition of their internship equivalence. The Order will inform them of the relevant procedure and fees. However, given the particular context of the practice of the profession of pharmacist in Québec, such recognition is not usually possible.*

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 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 appropriate knowledge of the French language.

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 Order** will send the candidate the examination registration form after it has received the application for recognition of diploma or training equivalence.

Practice of the profession of pharmacist involves considerable communication with customers and, accordingly, requires good knowledge of the French language. **Under certain conditions**, the Order may issue a temporary permit of no more than one year to candidates who do not have appropriate knowledge of French.

The temporary permit may be renewed up to three times with the authorization of the OQLF. 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.

Issuance of a permit

If you have met all the terms and conditions for obtaining a permit, the Order will issue your permit to practice.

REVIEW MECHANISM

Candidates may request a hearing with the Order to review its decision if recognition of diploma or training equivalence is refused or only partially recognized. Candidates who have not satisfied the internship requirements provided for by regulation may also request a review of the Order's decision in this respect. Any review application must be made within the timeframes prescribed by regulation. The final decision may not be appealed.

REGISTRATION ON THE ROLL OF THE ORDER

Candidates must be registered on the roll of the Order to practice the profession of pharmacist and use the reserved title. To register on the roll of the Order, you must:

- submit a written application using the prescribed form and sign the declaration respecting disciplinary and criminal decisions handed down in and outside Québec;
- pay the annual dues, which include fees for issuing the permit and the Order's registration fees;
- take out professional liability insurance.

Annual dues are \$1,083.68, which includes registration on the roll of the Order, plus \$24.80 as contribution to the financing of the *Office des professions du Québec*. Annual professional liability insurance fees amount to \$307.38.

References

- *Pharmacy Act* (RSQ, c. P-10).
- *Regulation respecting diploma and training equivalence standards for the issue of a pharmacist's permit* (c. P 10, r.12.2).
- *Regulation respecting the terms and conditions for the issue of permits by the Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec* (c. P 10, r.8.1).



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

- **Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec**

Direction de l'admission
et du perfectionnement
266, rue Notre-Dame Ouest, bureau 301
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1T6

In Montréal:
514 284-9588

Elsewhere in Québec:
1 800 363-0324

Fax: 514 284-3420

Internet: www.opq.org

E-mail: dap@opq.org

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 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 at
514 864-9191.

Elsewhere in Québec or abroad:
Contact the [Service Immigration-Québec](#)
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 a [Service Immigration-Québec](#)

Abroad:

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

Notice

The information in this document was current in August 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 Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec has validated the French version of this document. The English version is in accordance with the French version, but has not been validated by the Order.

