



About PRA-BC

In 2015, the province of British Columbia launched an assessment program for internationally educated family physicians that have completed residencies in Family Medicine outside of Canada. This program, known as Practice Ready Assessment – British Columbia (PRA-BC), provides qualified family physicians with an alternative pathway to licensure in BC.

As a program, PRA-BC assessed **203 family physicians** since 2015. These family physicians are now practising in **59 communities** throughout BC.

In consultation with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (“the College,” or “CPSBC”) and Health Match BC, PRA-BC assists applicants through an initial screening process to assess probable eligibility for PRA-BC. Once eligible candidates are selected, health authorities identify community practice clinics where candidates are recruited for potential hire. Upon successful completion of PRA-BC program requirements, IMGs will fulfill a 3-year return of service (ROS) within those communities.

PRA-BC Candidates – How are they assessed?

PRA-BC evaluates candidates through a 12-week Clinical Field Assessment (CFA).

The CFA is designed to evaluate a candidate’s readiness for independent practice and subsequent career as a family physician in British Columbia. Candidates will spend 12 weeks in a specified community under the direct supervision of a trained physician assessor.

Please note: candidates will undergo their CFA in a community that differs from the community where they will fulfill their three-year return of service.

How to qualify as a PRA-BC Clinical Field Assessment Site and Assessor

STEP 1. Confirmation by your health authority

- Health authorities are responsible for selection and confirmation of their respective clinical field assessment sites and assessing physicians.

STEP 2. Physician review and approval by the College.

STEP 3. Once PRA-BC has received confirmation that the health authority supports a given community and that the College approves the physicians identified to assess a PRA-BC candidate, physicians will be sent:

- A PRA-BC information package containing program details and timelines
- A PRA-BC Assessor Training Workshop registration package

Assessor certification – UBC CPD Assessor training

PRA-BC has contracted University of British Columbia Division of Continuing Professional Development (UBC CPD) to provide a training and development program for the physicians who will work with and evaluate these candidates during the three-month Clinical Field Assessment period.

- The workshop will span 2 days.
 - Spring 2023 workshop dates: March 31-April 1, 2023
- Online Assessor Training Workshop
- Participants will be eligible to receive
 - Mainpro+ M1 credits for their training
 - Compensation of 2 sessional fees (**\$512.32 per sessional**) per day during training

General Information – Spring 2023

- CFA period: **12 weeks**
- Spring 2023 CFA dates: May 1 – July 21, 2023
- Assessors will receive \$1,000 per candidate per week
- Assessors will receive a lump sum payment upon completion of the CFA (\$12,000 per candidate assessed)
- During the first week of the CFA, **no evaluation will take place**. Assessors are expected to orient candidates to their practices, services available in the community, and to any services outside the community as needed. Assessors will be paid their weekly fee for this period.
- Assessors are able to bill the MSP for their oversight of the professional work done by the CFA candidate.
- Assessors are eligible to obtain certified Mainpro+ credits for assessing a PRA-BC candidate.

Candidate licensure during the CFA - Assessment Class of Registration

During the CFA, all PRA-BC candidates must be registered and licensed with the College in the assessment class, which is a class of licensure approved by the provincial government and brought into effect on March 12, 2015.

Each candidate must be sponsored by one of the province's health authorities, and must be legally entitled to live and work in Canada. Candidates must remain under continuous supervision while being assessed by the designated program's lead assessor and other approved designated assessors.

Candidates must carry appropriate professional liability coverage and protection. During the 12-week clinical field assessment, candidates are not licensed for independent medical practice and therefore not able to act as a most responsible physician. All investigations ordered, referrals made and prescriptions written must be signed off by the candidate's supervising program assessor.

The clinical field assessment is a summative assessment of competency and not meant to be educational or for teaching purposes, although some formative assessment activities will occur.

The College's assessment class of registration is time-limited and will end following the completion of the 12-week clinical field assessment component. College Bylaws allow for immediate cancellation of registration and licensure if sponsorship is withdrawn, the assessor/supervisor withdraws or if significant candidate competency concerns are identified at any time.

For more information go to: <https://www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/current-registrants/registration-and-licensing/img/assessment>