



About PRA-BC

In 2015, the province of British Columbia launched a pilot program for internationally-educated physicians who have completed residencies in Family Medicine and have practised for a minimum of 3 years outside of Canada. This program, known as Practice Ready Assessment – British Columbia (PRA-BC), will provide these qualified family physicians with a pathway to licensure in BC.

In consultation with the 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 two-step evaluation process consisting of (1) a Centralized Assessment and, (2) a 12-week Clinical Field Assessment (CFA).

Centralized Assessment

The Centralized Assessment is designed to assess overall clinical knowledge and is composed of two examinations:

- An objective structured clinical encounter (OSCE) examination.
- A short-answer therapeutics examination.

Candidates who successfully pass the Centralized Assessment will be eligible to move forward to the second evaluation component, a 12-week CFA.

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.

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 of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College).

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.
 - Fall 2018 Workshop: September 28-29, 2018
- Training will take place at the Diamond Health Care Centre (2775 Laurel Street) on the Vancouver General Hospital campus.
- Attendees will be eligible to receive
 - MAINPRO M1 credits for their training
 - Compensation of 2 sessional fees (\$468.18 per sessional) per day during training
 - Reimbursement of return travel expenses to Vancouver
 - Reimbursement of PRA-BC approved hotel costs during the assessor training session

General Information – Fall 2018 CFA

- CFA period: **12 weeks**
- Fall 2018 CFA dates: **October 29, 2018 – January 18, 2019**
- Assessors will receive \$1000 per candidate per week
- Assessors will receive a lump sum payment upon completion of the CFA (\$12000 per candidate assessed)
- During the first week of the CFA **no evaluation will take place**. Assessors will be expected to orient candidates to their practices, to the 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 will be 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 new class of registration, the assessment class, which was 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/for-physicians/registration-licensing/applying/imgs/pr-a-bc/assessment-process>