



# PRA-BC

PRACTICE READY ASSESSMENT  
- PHYSICIANS FOR BC



Bringing qualified  
Family Physicians  
to BC since 2015.



## What is PRA-BC?

PRA-BC is an assessment program for internationally-educated family physicians who have completed family medicine residencies outside of Canada. PRA-BC provides these physicians with an alternative pathway to licensure at a time when many BC communities are experiencing physician shortages.

Candidates undergo a 9-day Centralized Orientation followed by a 12-week Clinical Field Assessment (CFA) where their clinical skills are rigorously assessed. Those who successfully complete program requirements go on to fulfill a 3-year Return of Service (ROS) in a BC community of need.

We conduct two intakes per year and assess up to 32 physicians a year.

## How does PRA-BC work?

Physicians who meet our initial screening and selection eligibility criteria are referred to health authorities/clinics for interview. Those who are selected for sponsorship by a health authority/clinic are invited to attend a PRA-BC intake.

There are two components to PRA-BC:

- 1.** A Centralized Orientation (CO) is designed to orient internationally trained physicians to practicing medicine in Canada and prepare them for their 12-week Clinical Field Assessment (CFA).
- 2.** A 12-week CFA is designed to evaluate a candidate's readiness for independent medical practice as a most responsible physician (MRP). The CFA involves direct and indirect candidate supervision and evaluation of patient care and occurs in multiple settings (e.g., ambulatory/ community clinic, ER, hospital inpatient ward and long term care). It is expected that candidates will be assessed in the typical practice settings that the physician assessor works in.



"Internationally trained physicians continue to make a valuable contribution to the delivery of health care and patient services, particularly in rural communities. The PRA-BC program helps fill the demand for skilled physicians within BC's rural health authorities and its many under-served rural communities"

Dr. Alan Ruddiman  
Doctors of BC, Co-Chair,  
Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues

# Community Selection and Program Overview

- 1.** Health authorities confirm communities & clinics of need where successful candidates (graduates) may complete a three-year return of service (ROS).
- 2.** PRA-BC refers physician applicants to full-time positions in these communities.
- 3.** Health authorities, clinics and physician leaders interview applicants.
- 4.** Clinics select and health authorities sponsor their preferred candidates.
- 5.** Selected candidates attend a PRA-BC intake.

PRA-BC graduates obtain CPSBC provisional licensure and commence a 3-year ROS in a designated community.

“One of the best programs for internationally trained physicians wanting to work in Canada, as it benefits the patients, the doctor and the community in general!”

Dr. Joseph Obanye  
PRA-BC graduate practicing in Valemount, BC

# Sponsoring a PRA-BC Candidate

PRA-BC graduates must provide full-time, full-scope family practice services for the full term of their 3-year ROS.

A clinic that wishes to recruit a PRA-BC candidate must:

- ✓ Clearly define their scope of service (i.e., inpatient and ER coverage, on-call duties, patient load, overhead costs, etc.) and physician compensation model (e.g., fee-for-service).
- ✓ Be able to supervise their successful candidate on their provisional class of registration.
- ✓ Commit to holding the position until their sponsored candidate completes the Program.



# Clinical Field Assessment

PRA-BC candidates will spend 12 weeks in a specified community, under the direct supervision of trained physician assessors, where their clinical skills will be observed and assessed daily.

Candidates are assessed in a community that differs from their ROS community.

Candidates are assessed at the level of a Canadian trained family physician entering practice.

CFA assessors:

- Are confirmed and supported by their health authority
- Receive training at PRA-BC's "Assessor Training Workshop"

## Why our assessors participate:

"I have had the privilege of having a PRA physician in my clinic, so felt it was the least I could do."

"I was an IMG myself and I wanted to give something back to the healthcare system, while incorporating my experience as an IMG."

"To be part of performing quality assessments of physicians in order to decrease the doctor shortages with suitable candidate placement."



Dr. Preianathan Armogam  
Port McNeill, BC  
PRA-BC Assessor

# PRA-BC Candidate Qualifications

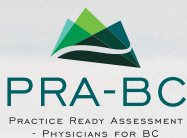
## Initial Screening Eligibility Criteria:

\*Developed jointly by PRA-BC and the CPSBC

1. Medical degree issued by a school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDOMS).
2. Two years of international postgraduate training (PGT) leading to registration as a family physician
3. Completion of 7 core rotations:
  - Minimum 4 weeks of PGT in: internal medicine, general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, & emergency medicine;
  - Minimum 8 weeks of PGT in family medicine.
4. Completion of a minimum of 2 years of independent practice as a family physician in an international jurisdiction.
5. Academic credentials verification on [physiciansapply.ca](http://physiciansapply.ca).
6. Currency in practice: minimum 960 hours of clinical practice as a family physician in preceding 3 years (§2-8, CPSBC bylaws).
7. CV. All activities, professional or otherwise, must be fully explained.
8. English language proficiency (§2-3(2), CPSBC bylaws).
9. Successful pass score on the MCCQE Part 1.

## Additional selection eligibility criteria:

1. Pass score on the MCCQE Part 2 OR the NAC OSCE ( $\geq 75\%$  or 416).
2. Pass score on the Medical Council of Canada Therapeutics Decision Making (MCC TDM) examination.



Interested? Contact us at [info@prabc.ca](mailto:info@prabc.ca)

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