

Practice Ready Assessment – BC (PRA-BC)

PRA-BC offers internationally-educated physicians, who have completed residencies in Family Medicine outside of Canada, a potential pathway to licensure in BC. The program runs two cohorts a year and screened applicants are presented to health authorities semi-annually to match with approved practice locations.

Historically, this program has been open only to rural sites, however, for the upcoming cohorts, there has been the addition of URBAN (PCN) sites with placements based 50% in rural and 50% in PCN URBAN (based on sufficient clinic applicants in each group).

A requirement of the PRA-BC is a 12-week clinical field assessment, with a preceptor, and the assessment must occur in a practice removed from the practice the Family Physician will complete their 3-year Return of Service (ROS) in.

PRA-BC ROS APPLICATIONS TO HOST A PRA-BC PHYSICIAN IN YOUR OFFICE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO physicians@viha.ca NO LATER THAN 3pm OCTOBER 2ND.

TO APPLY, COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM FOUND [HERE](#).

For more information about the PRA-BC program, please see their website here: <http://www.prabc.ca/>

Why become an Assessor?

Many physicians view PRA-BC as a unique recruitment tool to attract physicians who are committed to practicing in communities with acute physician shortages. Others see the role as a chance to give back to their profession by participating in a program which will provide medical care to underserved areas. Finally, many see this as a unique mentoring position and an opportunity to gain valuable skills that they can apply to other teaching roles. Attendance at assessor workshops is required and carries professional continuing learning credits.

Who can be an Assessor?

Ideally, assessing practices should be comprised of three or more physicians, but a minimum of two physicians willing to act as assessors.

Each site must identify:

1. Primary Assessor – this physician must have a full license from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College) and have been engaged in active clinical practice for at least three years, of which one year must have been in British Columbia.

2. Secondary Assessor(s) – this physician must, at a minimum, have a provisional license from the College and have been engaged in active clinical practice for at least three years, of which one year must have been in British Columbia.

Practice/Clinic Obligations:

1. Attend a PRA-BC Assessor Training workshop conducted by the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine's Division of Continuing Professional Development (UBC CPD).
2. Hold a position open from when vacancy is identified until dates that fit with the respective ROS program applied for.
3. Be obliged to consider and rank ALL candidates who apply.
4. Be prepared to make a legally binding offer for the full term of the ROS commitment with the understanding that the start date will be months in the future.
5. Letter of offer must outline the compensation model and overhead arrangements, call responsibilities, expected clinical duties (i.e. obstetrics, nursing home, walk-in after hours, etc.).
6. Be prepared to supervise the PRA-BC physician(s).
7. If applying to receive a PRA-BC program graduate to complete their ROS, the practice must be willing to reciprocate in acting as a clinical field assessment site for a Family Physician who matches to serve their ROS in another Island Health community.

Assessor Training Information

The dates for the next intake (Spring 2020) are as follows:

- April 3 – 4, 2020: Assessor Training Workshop
- April 22 – May 1, 2020: Centralized Orientation
- May 4 – July 24, 2020: Clinical Field Assessment (12 weeks)

**please note, program dates are subject to change*

Assessors will be:

- paid sessional fees for training received
- reimbursed for approved travel expenses to Vancouver
- Provided hotel accommodation during the training workshop
- Receive MAINPRO+ credits for training.

Funding and Matching Process

During PRA-BC's September 16th steering committee meeting, the Ministry of Health announced that it will provide \$1.15 million in bridge funding to support the placement of 16 PRA-BC graduates into urban communities – specifically PCN communities – during PRA-BC's fiscal year 2020-2021. Though there is the potential for 16 candidates, there is a possibility that a clinic may not match with one of these candidates or the matched candidate may not successfully progress to achieve provincial licensure.

Health Authorities will work to onboard new PCN URBAN communities for Spring and Fall 2020 intakes, however, focus will be given to communities with the greatest need. There is no defined urban versus rural allocation by the Health Authority at this time, however, specific allocations may be put into place at a future date and once Health Authorities/PRA-BC have a greater understanding of demand and distribution of sites.

Clinics that apply will be reviewed and ranked by Island Health's ROS Working Group and will include clinics from rural Vancouver Island communities. Those clinics that progress will be communicated to the PRA-BC candidates who will consider communities and practices of interest. PRA-BC candidates will then be connected with clinics to conduct interviews, following which candidates will rank clinics and clinics will rank candidates by the end of November. The provincial PRA-BC Steering Committee will convene in December to confirm matches. Candidates who match in the Spring 2020 intake will be practice ready in August 2020 (subject to passing).