

Policy on:

Practice Eligibility Route for Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (PER-SEAP)

1. Objective & Scope

The Practice Eligibility Route for the Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (PER-SEAP) is a mechanism by which internationally trained specialists who are currently practicing in Canada in a subspecialty, and who are not Royal College certified in a primary specialty, can document to their regulatory authority, and their patients, their successful achievement of the Royal College subspecialty standard.

Those who pass the subspecialty examination through the PER-SEAP will be granted Royal College attestation of their successful completion and invited to become a Royal College Subspecialist Affiliate enabling ongoing engagement with the Royal College without extending membership/Fellowship. This affiliate does not confer Royal College membership or Fellowship status; thus, affiliates are not able to use the FRCPC or FRCSC Fellowship designation.

2. Definitions and Acronyms

This section defines key terms used in this policy.

Affiliate Status	Affiliate status provides a mechanism for maintaining engagement with the Royal College and participating in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program but does not confer Royal College membership or Fellowship status.
Continuous practice location	A designated site in Canada where the candidate has been engaged in uninterrupted supervised clinical practice. The candidate must currently be practicing at the same location, ensuring ongoing assessment of their practice without disruption.
Fellowship	Unaccredited postgraduate clinical or research based medical training that compliments specialty and subspecialty training, and is usually narrow in scope of practice.
Maintenance of Certification (MOC)	The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program is a continuing professional development program designed by the Royal College to support the lifelong learning needs of Fellows and

Ruling

Health Care Professionals. Introduced in 2000, the MOC Program demonstrates the Royal College's commitment to the highest standards in specialty medicine.

A ruling is a decision on examination eligibility only. Once the applicant's training has been assessed, the Royal College will make a "ruling" (decision) on examination eligibility. The Royal College retains the authority to review all applications for preliminary assessment of training on a case-by-case basis and to determine the ruling on examination eligibility. The Royal College also retains the authority to withdraw acceptance of an applicant's credentials and/or require that an applicant complete additional training.

3. Policy

The Practice Eligibility Route for Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (PER-SEAP) allows the following cohort of physicians to apply for eligibility to the Royal College certification examination to receive attestation of their successful completion and be offered the option to become a Royal College Subspecialist Affiliate.

3.1. Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1.1.** Medical specialty training that was completed outside Canada and the United States.
- 3.1.2.** Not certified in a Royal College primary specialty or subspecialty.
- 3.1.3.** Training that is substantially equivalent to Royal College training standards.
- 3.1.4.** At the time of application applicants must be licensed and practicing under supervision as a subspecialist in a continuous practice location in Canada.
 - 3.1.4.1.** Applicants must have completed at least one (1) year in a continuous practice location or one (1) year of fellowship which meets the requirements listed in Section 3.5 of this policy.

3.2. Credentials Review:

The Royal College requires proof that the applicant has completed training which is substantially equivalent to the subspecialty specific training standards. The applicant must be recognized as a subspecialist in the jurisdiction of training and must provide satisfactory evidence of completion of all postgraduate medical education (PGME) training in the jurisdiction in which training occurred.

- 3.2.1.** The Credentials Unit requires the following for PER-SEAP applicants to be considered for eligibility for a Royal College subspecialty examination:
 - 3.2.1.1.** Details of the applicant's training (to be compared with Royal College's subspecialty specific standards).
 - 3.2.1.1.1.** All training documentation must be source verified through Physicians Apply.
 - 3.2.1.2.** Proof of a non-educational license to practice in Canada as an independent specialist in the subspecialty.
 - 3.2.1.3.** A Certificate of Professional Standing from a Medical Regulatory Authority (MRA).

- 3.2.1.4.** Proof of successful completion of all Time In Practice Requirements.
- 3.2.2.** Candidates must submit a complete application by the deadline, including all required documents in English or French, and any required source verification. Incomplete applications will be withdrawn, and assessment fees will be refunded.
- 3.2.3.** Applicants who are assessed by the Credentials Unit and have met these requirements will be issued a ruling letter granting eligibility to the applicable Royal College specialty examination(s).
- 3.2.4.** All PER candidates are subject to the policies and procedures for ruling letters and examination outlined in sections V and VI of the Royal College *Policies and Procedures for Certification and Fellowship*.

3.3. Time in Practice Requirements:

- 3.3.1.** Candidates must complete a minimum of two (2) years of supervised practice in a continuous practice location in Canada. This practice may take place in any Canadian jurisdiction.
- 3.3.2.** Candidates must be actively practicing in a continuous practice location at the time of assessment of practice.
- 3.3.3.** Candidates must dedicate at least 50% of their practice to the subspecialty for the full duration of the two (2) years.
- 3.3.4.** Candidates must hold a license from a Canadian medical regulatory authority (MRA) for the full duration of the two (2) years. It is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain a license from the appropriate MRA.
- 3.3.5.** Candidates must demonstrate professional competence in the full scope of the subspecialty acting as the most responsible physician on clinical cases.

3.4. Assessment of Time in Practice

- 3.4.1.** A successful assessment of practice is required for certification.
- 3.4.2.** Assessment of practice is completed through a multisource feedback (MSF) process consisting of structured attestations of competence completed by individuals who are familiar with the candidate's practice. The MSF process confirms the candidate's practice requirements, including length of practice, dedication to the subspecialty and professional competencies and performance across CanMEDS roles.
 - 3.4.2.1.** The candidate's supervisor must attest to the candidate's duration of practice and time dedication to the subspecialty.

3.5. Time in Practice Requirement for Candidates with Fellowship Experiences:

Candidates must adhere to the time in practice requirements detailed in Section 3.3 and complete the assessment of practice as detailed in Section 3.4. for one (1) year spent in a continuous practice location. In addition, candidates must also undergo an assessment of time in fellowship training as described in this section.

3.5.1. Assessment of Time in Fellowship

- 3.5.2.** One (1) year of fellowship training under the auspices of a Canadian PGME office, may be counted towards the two (2) year time in practice requirement in Canada, provided that the PGME Program Director/Postgraduate Dean provides attestation that the generalist competencies have been met. Fellowships of less than one (1) year cannot be counted towards the time in practice in Canada requirement.

- 3.5.2.1.** Candidates must submit a letter of attestation from their PGME Program Director/Postgraduate Dean outlining:
 - a description of the fellowship,
 - clinical and research responsibilities,
 - competence in the subspecialty for which the candidate is seeking affiliation
 - time dedicated to the subspecialty for which the candidate is seeking certification
- 3.5.2.2.** Documentation must demonstrate that the candidate has made a significant dedication of 50% of their fellowship practice or greater in the relevant subspecialty for the duration of the training year being assessed for time in practice.
- 3.5.3.** Fellowship experiences will be counted as an exception to the requirement to practice in a continuous practice location for two (2) years. Candidates with fellowship experiences must provide attestation(s) to one (1) year of fellowship in Canada, and one (1) year in a continuous practice location in Canada.
- 3.5.4.** Time in fellowship training cannot be counted towards the practice requirement if the same time in fellowship was credited towards training requirements.
- 3.5.5.** Assessment of whether a fellowship meets the criteria above will be at the discretion of the Royal College.

3.6. Royal College Affiliation

Candidates who have met the PER-SEAP requirements will be eligible for affiliation with the Royal College, including:

- 3.6.1.** A successful credentials review verifying training equivalence and completion of time in practice requirements.
- 3.6.2.** Successful completion of all required examination component(s).

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1.** The Credentials Unit of the Office of Standards and Assessment is responsible for the PER-SEAP credentialing process. The Credentials Unit will also issue the ruling letter following the assessment of the physician's training.

5. References

- 5.1.** List of Royal College recognized subspecialties and specialty training requirements: <https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/ibd-search-e>
- 5.2.** [*Policies and Procedures for Certification and Fellowship*](#)
- 5.3.** [*Policies for Certification in a Competency by Design Model of Residency Training*](#)
- 5.4.** Examination Registration and policies: <https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/credentials-exams/writing-your-exams-e>

6. Contact(s)

For information or clarification, please contact:

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7. Appendices

7.1. Procedures to obtain PER-SEAP attestation

8. Policy record

Policy number	Resolution No. 2025-2026; C: 2026-04-30
Most recent resolution:	May 2026
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