

## College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
<b>POLICY NAME</b>	English Language Proficiency for Physicians from Outside Canada		
<b>APPLICABLE LEGISLATION</b>			
<b>Approved by :</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Reviewer</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>December 13, 2013</b>	<b>Deputy Registrar (Registration)</b>	<b>December 2015</b>

### Purpose

To establish an initial screening criteria for international medical graduates (IMGs) with respect to English language proficiency. The policy recognizes that the ability to communicate with patients and colleagues in the English language including skill in speaking, reading, writing and comprehension is an essential competency for physicians intending to practise in Nova Scotia.

This policy defines the process required to determine English language proficiency under the Regulations Pursuant to the Medical Act of 2012, Sections 8 (a) (xiii); 17 (g); 22 (g); 27(g); 32 (m); 43 (l); and 49 (p).

### Policy

Candidates for registration in Nova Scotia who have received their undergraduate medical education outside of Canada must provide evidence of English language proficiency.

- Candidates are exempted from English language proficiency testing if their medical education and patient care experience were in one of the countries outside Canada that have English as a first and native language (see list below)
- **All other candidates** must have taken IELTS (International English Language Testing System) or TOEFL IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet Based Test) within the last 24 months at the time of application.

The following scores in IELTS academic version and TOEFL IBT academic version will be accepted as a minimum for entry into a practice ready assessment or for licensure:

- IELTS academic version: minimum 7.0 in each of the components, OR
- TOEFL IBT academic version: minimum of 24 in each of the four components

**Countries with English as a first and native language:** Australia, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, US Virgin Islands

**Caribbean Islands:** Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Grenadines, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago.

*Although the first and native language of Saba is not officially English, the language of undergraduate medical education at Saba University School of Medicine is English and patient care experiences during the clinical portion of the undergraduate curriculum are in English. Thus graduates of Saba University School of Medicine are exempted from the language testing provisions of this policy.*