



# POLICY & PROCEDURE

Registration  
Number: 3.5

Approved by Council: December 12, 2000

Issued:

Updated:

Replaced:

## TOPIC: REGISTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL PHYSIOTHERAPY CANDIDATES

---

### Policy:

Applicants who have attended a physiotherapy education program outside of Canada are considered “foreign educated” or international candidates.

The Council has determined that the Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE) is the acceptable tool to test essential competencies. Therefore, all international candidates must pass the PCE in order to practice independently. The Council recognizes that allowing an “international candidate” to practice under supervision while undergoing the examination process, is beneficial to assisting the candidate to become accustomed to the practice environment and medical terminology. Therefore the following procedure has been implemented.

### Procedure:

1. International candidates who are seeking licensure in Manitoba will be required to undertake the Physiotherapy Competency Examination which is administered through the Canadian *Alliance* of Physiotherapy Regulators. The first part of the *Alliance*'s process is to undergo a credential review by the *Alliance* of the applicant's physiotherapy education program in order to determine that the applicant's program of studies is substantially equivalent to a Canadian physiotherapy education program. If the program is not substantially equivalent, but similar, the candidate may be asked to submit information on their work experience and graduate coursework. If discrepancies can be rectified through this new information, the candidate will be approved to write the examination. Alternatively, the candidate may be asked to upgrade in certain areas and the candidate may be referred to the Open Learning Centre in British Columbia, an educational facility that offers correspondence courses to upgrade in some areas of practice. Successful completion of recommended courses will enable the applicant to be eligible for writing the examination.
2. Once the candidate has successfully completed and passed the multiple choice component of the examination (Part 1 of the PCE), he/she is eligible to register with CPM on the Examination Candidate Register to practice under supervision. The Registrar must receive notification that the candidate has passed Part 1 of the examination. The candidate must find a fieldwork placement where he/she can be supervised, preferably in a general hospital setting where the

applicant can gain exposure to the three main areas of clinical practice (musculo-skeletal, cardio respiratory, neurology). The supervising physiotherapist must provide direct supervision and complete a performance evaluation form as provided by CPM at the midway point and end of the supervised placement. The location of the fieldwork placement and name of supervising physiotherapist must be provided to the Registrar who will seek approval from the Board of Assessors. A copy of the evaluations should be sent to the CPM office.

3. Once the fieldwork placement has been approved, the candidate must register with CPM and pay the registration fee. The Registrar will also request a certified copy of the applicant's degree in physiotherapy, evidence of membership in good standing from the applicant's previous two regulatory bodies, evidence from his/her previous employer(s) that the candidate has practiced as a physiotherapist for a minimum of 1200 hours in the five years immediately preceding the year for which registration is sought, a criminal record check and professional liability insurance coverage at a minimum of \$5 million. The practice hour requirement is to ensure that the candidate is not a re-entry candidate. The difference between the two categories of practitioners is that re-entry candidates **must** undergo a supervised clinical practice component whereas a foreign educated candidate is not obligated to practice. However, if the foreign-educated candidate chooses to practice, he or she must be supervised.
4. The candidate is expected to register for the next session of the PCE in order to complete Part 2 of the examination. Under some circumstances, the candidate may request an extension to complete the examination. The Council will consider this on a case by case basis and make the decision bearing in mind financial or family issues. However, the extension will not be granted to candidates who are coming to Manitoba on a temporary basis and are not planning to complete the exam process.
5. Once the candidate has successfully completed Part 2 (the OSCE component) of the examination and the Registrar receives notification from the Alliance of a successful outcome, the candidate can apply to transfer to the Active Practice Register and begin practicing independently.

**Legislative Reference:**

Regulations 6(1), 6(2), 6(3), 6(4), 6(5), 6(6)