

**INSTRUCTION SHEET**  
**PRE-ENTRY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (PEAP) FOR  
FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES (FMGs) ENTERING  
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (PGME) IN ONTARIO**  
**(NOTE: Excludes those entering through CaRMS)**

To obtain an unrestricted postgraduate medical education certificate of registration (educational license) from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO), FMGs, who did not enter through CaRMS, are required to undergo a Pre-entry Assessment Program (PEAP). Successful completion will allow them to obtain an educational license from the CPSO prior to full acceptance into an Ontario residency or clinical fellowship program.

Although completion of the PEAP and the MCCEE have always been CPSO requirements for FMGs applying to **residency** programs, program directors have the option of requiring the MCCEE for application to the **fellowship** program. Program Directors also have the option of requiring an external assessment of English language fluency such as the TOEFL/TSE for application to either the residency or fellowship programs.

The PEAP is an assessment process that evaluates FMGs to determine whether they can function at their reported level of training. For residencies, the PEAP must be twelve (12) weeks and for clinical fellowships eight (8) weeks to twelve (12) weeks in duration.

**Candidates in a residency PEAP** will be evaluated in terms of their clinical skills in the program to which they are seeking entry, as well as their basic skills in internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry and general surgery, appropriate for practice in the chosen discipline in addition to the CanMEDS roles.

**Candidates in a clinical fellowship PEAP** will be evaluated based on their general knowledge and competency in the specialty in which they are certified, and appropriate for practice in the discipline in which they are entering fellowship training.

The PEAP allows assessment of candidates in a supervised clinical, multidisciplinary environment where there is patient exposure on an ongoing basis. The assessment is also to ensure that candidates are: mentally competent to practice medicine; able to practice with decency, integrity and honesty and in accordance with the law; have sufficient knowledge, skill and judgment to engage in postgraduate medical training as authorized by the educational license; can communicate effectively, and display an appropriate professional attitude.

**Process:**

- The CPSO will communicate to candidates that during the PEAP they shall only function at their reported level of training, in a supervised postgraduate education environment.
- A PEAP ITER (In Training Evaluation Report) must be completed by the end of the fourth week and at the end of the PEAP. Particular attention must be paid to communication skills. Fellowships may be so narrow in scope that only the immediate supervisor has the expertise to assess the skills and knowledge for that fellowship.
- If candidates are unsuccessful in the PEAP, they are ineligible to enter postgraduate training in that specialty within Ontario; there is no course of appeal.

## **Assessment of Communication Skills (For both residents and clinical fellows)**

The communications skills of residents and fellows will be assessed during the PEAP. Assessments are to take place after the fourth week and at the end of the PEAP to determine whether a candidate can communicate effectively. The PEAP Detailed Assessment Form is an internal program form to be used for this purpose. Individuals who are deemed unable to communicate effectively during the PEAP cannot enter postgraduate training.

Prior to acceptance into the PEAP, the supervisor will review the candidates' communication capabilities during an interview. The Program Director may require the candidates to provide an external assessment of their English language fluency such as the TOEFL/TSE exam. The PEAP is the required CPSO mechanism for assessing ability to communicate effectively.

## **Level of responsibility during the PEAP**

Programs determine the level of responsibility appropriate to the entry level of the candidates (PGY1 vs. PGY4 vs. Clinical Fellow). For example, candidates entering a PGY1 level will be given the same level of responsibility during a PEAP as 4<sup>th</sup> year senior medical students toward the end of their 4<sup>th</sup> year.

However, because PEAP candidates are licensed, they can prescribe and are under a level of supervision that is determined to be appropriate for them. There are different levels of supervision for PGY1 candidates vs. PGY4 vs. Clinical Fellows.

The CSPO has the following standard terms and conditions attached to the PEAP certificate of registration (PEAP license):

1. *Dr. [full name of doctor] may practice medicine only:*
  - a. *in a clinical teaching unit that is formally affiliated with the [name of Ontario medical school] to which the holder is appointed, and only as part of a system in which postgraduate trainees are regularly assigned by the program to that clinical teaching unit;*
  - b. *to the extent required to complete the Pre-entry Assessment Program to which the holder is appointed; and*
  - c. *under a level of supervision that is determined to be appropriate for the holder and the program of medical education and assessment, by a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario designated by the director of the program*
2. *Dr. [surname of doctor] will receive remuneration for medical services only in the form of a fixed salary or stipend and will not charge a fee for medical service or medical services.*
3. *This certificate expires when Dr. [surname of doctor] is no longer enrolled in the Pre-entry Assessment Program specified in paragraph (1), which may be no less than four weeks and no more than twelve weeks in duration.*