



**MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CANADA
(MCC)**

BRIEFING NOTE

FOR THE

**ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS OF THE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF CANADA
(ARUCC)**

By: Ian Bowmer, Executive Director
Medical Council of Canada

Pierre Lemay, Director
Repository and Registration Services

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Purpose

Provide background information about the new Medical Council of Canada physician credentials repository and the role the Registrar offices can play to facilitate the transfer of Canadian medical graduates' credentials into the repository.

Introduction

In February 2004, the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee on Health Delivery and Human Resources released its Report of the Canadian Task Force on Licensure of International Medical Graduates. The report contained a number of recommendations intended to facilitate the integration of qualified International Medical Graduates (IMGs) into the Canadian physician workforce. One of these recommendations called for the development and implementation of the central credentials verification service designed to:

- (i) maintain a national repository of verified credentials; and
- (ii) validate documents required for licensure and certification of IMGs.

In response to this recommendation, the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), in partnership with the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) and supported by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), funded the project to establish the Physician Credentials Registry of Canada (PCRC) as a division of the MCC.

The PCRC division was established to provide a centralized repository of a physician's core medical credentials, which have been source-verified. It was designed to reduce duplication of effort for medical graduates by gathering, verifying and permanently storing their credentials, which have been submitted over time, in a single repository.

PCRC manages the source verification process to ensure the authenticity of credentials. This process includes contacting the organization that issued a given credential and asking it to confirm that it has a record of the credential being awarded to that individual. Examples of credentials that may be submitted to PCRC include:

- medical degree diploma;
- medical school transcript;
- postgraduate medical training;
- specialty certificate(s) confirming completion of a specialty or family medicine;
- post-graduate training;
- medical licence and registration certificate; and
- supporting documents such as authorizations, translations, photograph, certified proof of identity document and proof of name change where applicable

The resulting repository of verified credentials and supporting documents will enable an applicant to establish a confidential electronic portfolio that can be shared with authorized stakeholders, such as provincial and territorial medical regulatory authorities (MRAs), certifying and qualifying bodies, regional health authorities and / or hospitals. The responsibility for assessment and eligibility determination continues to rest with the MRAs and certifying bodies, including the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and the *Collège des médecins du Québec (CMQ)*.

Accomplishment

The PCRC service went into operation on 3 July 2007. The division offers a permanent electronic repository and document verification services to International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who are applying to the organizations identified in the table below:

Organization Name

Medical Council of Canada
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
College of Family Physicians of Canada
Collège des médecins du Québec
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba
Department of Consumer Corporate Affairs, Government of the Yukon

Once all provinces and territories use PCRC's repository service to check their IMG applicants' documents and verification statuses, IMGs will only need to submit their credentials once no matter the number of MRAs with whom they have applied. PCRC will act as a "one-stop-shop" for all needed documents for registration and licensure anywhere in Canada. The ultimate objective is to have this service available for all Canadian physicians.

Towards a National Registration Process for All Canadian Physicians

Our next step is to move towards a national registration process. The initiative is based on a collaboration established by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities (FMRAC) and the thirteen provincial and territorial MRAs. It will address the development of an effective, efficient, equitable and nationally acceptable application process for registration of all physicians. The process will build on the existing capabilities of the system developed and in use for Physician Credentials Registry of Canada (PCRC). Thirteen provincial / territorial processes will be streamlined into a single nationally and internationally accessible process that is navigable and has a common look and feel. In addition, it will use an already established national unique physician identifier (the Medical Identification Number of Canada - MINC) which will be assigned to each physician on first entry into Canada's medical system. (This will include students studying medicine in Canada)

An important assumption in our goal of moving towards a national registration process is extending the PCRC services to the Canadian medical graduate (CMG) population. Electronic processes to capture and store Canadian medical graduate documents such as their transcript and diploma is critical to the long-term viability of the repository.

Since many universities have an electronic database that holds both documents, having PCRC obtain the documents directly from Canadian medical schools would allow for a simplified and cost-effective process.

Conclusion

MCC is seeking your approval to work in collaboration with the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) and the proper authorities from the medical schools to develop a process to download the graduating MDs' transcript and diploma directly from the Registrar's office into their repository account at PCRC.