



RP.15 Policy on English Language Proficiency Requirements for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

Approved by Council: July 2016

Reviewed and Updated: September 2021

Resources: [Regulated Health Professions Act](#)
[Regulated Health Professions Act-General Regulations](#)

PEI College of Pharmacy policies, together with legislation, practice directives, standards and guidelines outline the practice expectations of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the province.

Policies use “must” to indicate an action that is mandatory for a pharmacy professional. Policies use “may” to indicate that the registrant may use professional discretion.

Introduction

Language proficiency is an essential skill required of all pharmacy professionals in the day-to-day practice of pharmacy in Canada. Although language proficiency does not guarantee that effective communication will take place, it is the foundation for all communication skills components - reading, speaking, listening, and writing.

Individuals applying to the PEI College of Pharmacists (PEICP) to register as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician must meet English language proficiency requirements as set out in the *Regulated Health Professions Act and General Regulations*.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to further clarify what the PEI College of Pharmacy will accept for evidence of meeting English language proficiency, as described in the *Regulated Health Professions Act, General Regulations*.

Policy

1.0 All applicants who have graduated from a pharmacy degree or pharmacy technician diploma program accredited by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) or a pharmacy degree program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), where the language of instruction is English, will not be required to undergo further testing unless a “trigger” suggests that a test for language proficiency is necessary.



2.0 All other applicants may meet language proficiency requirements by submitting any of the following:

2.1 Evidence of successful completion of one of the approved NAPRA English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments.

2.1.1 Language proficiency test results are considered valid for two years from the date of the test.

2.1.2 The PEICP accepts the most current ELP assessment results which overrides previous results.

2.1.3 Test scores must be sent directly to the PEICP from the testing agency or be verifiable through the testing agency's online verification system, if available.

2.2 Documentation submitted for the individual applicant directly from the pharmacy program confirms

2.2.1 Theoretical and clinical instruction, and patient care experience were provided in English while the applicant attended program, and

2.2.2 The program was delivered in class and was a minimum of two years of full-time study.

2.3 Evidence of employment in the same regulated health profession as application, where the primary language of practice was English, for a period not less than 2 years. Applicants must provide a letter from their employer that confirms:

2.3.1 The applicant practiced in an area where English was the language of service; and

2.3.2 The applicant can communicate and comprehend effectively, both orally and in writing, in English.



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2.4 Evidence of completion of 2 years of postgraduate education completed in English.

2.5 Evidence of completion of primary and secondary education completed in English as a first language either through submission of transcripts provided directly from the educational institution or affiliated school board or a letter indicating that the required education was instructed in English.