



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Health
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Bermuda Medical Council

BMC Policy Document: Policy on Credentials from Varying Jurisdictions

Effective Date: March 2025

Recognition of Credentials from Varying Jurisdictions

The Bermuda Medical Council (BMC) is directed by the Bermuda Medical Practitioners Act 1950 (MPA) to uphold high standards of professional competence and conduct in medicine and surgery in Bermuda. The BMC fulfills its duty by ensuring that public interest is considered when reviewing applications from medical practitioners. Applications must be verifiable and meet the established criteria for registration in Bermuda. This policy pertains specifically to the BMC's consideration of the jurisdiction from which an applicant's credentials have been attained during the registration process.

The MPA states that a "duly eligible applicant" for registration as a medical practitioner shall be –

An applicant who has satisfactorily completed a course of study and examination deemed sufficient by the BMC to demonstrate competence in the practice of medicine and surgery or, in the case of a specialist, competence in their specific specialty.

An applicant of good character.

To determine that an applicant's credentials meet the criteria of a "duly eligible applicant," the BMC considers two key factors:

1. The validity and authenticity of the presented credentials.
2. The equivalency of the credential to the standard of expertise required to maintain a high standard of professional competence, as dictated by the BMC.

The BMC has extensively reviewed previous policies regarding the recognition of medical education and examinations from different jurisdictions. Based on these reviews and recent experience, the BMC has established its current policy. All applicants from any jurisdiction listed below, must provide all documentation required in the application for registration of a medical practitioner documentation issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer (OCMO).



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The BMC will continue to routinely consider applications from medical practitioners who hold postgraduate "board-certified" qualifications and medical licensure/registration from the following jurisdictions:

- United States
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- University of West Indies DM specialist postgraduate training scheme complete.

Additionally, the BMC will consider applications from jurisdictions, governing bodies, and qualifications listed on the General Medical Council UK (GMC) 'Acceptable Postgraduate Qualifications List.' This list includes postgraduate qualifications recognized by the GMC as sufficient evidence that an applicant possesses the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to apply for full registration with a license to practice in the UK without requiring further training. Candidates considered under this route must have their credentials including primary medical degree, postgraduate training qualifications, and current license verified through an approved international credential verification agency- currently Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC.)

Finally, the BMC will consider applications from the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland under the GMC's EEA country application route. A candidate must demonstrate that they would be able to meet the GMC's requirements to register in the UK as a specialist or a GP with full registration and a license to practice, without any period of further training required. Candidates considered under this route must demonstrate English language competency, and have their credentials including primary medical degree, postgraduate training qualifications, and current license verified through an approved international credential verification agency- currently Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC.)

Exceptional Circumstances for Consideration

Under exceptional circumstances, the BMC may also consider applications from jurisdictions other than those listed above. These cases may include, but are not limited to:

1. **Bermudian Applicants:** Bermudians who have completed their medical education in jurisdictions not routinely recognized by the BMC listed above.



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2. **Dire Public Need:** Medical practitioners whose expertise is critically needed in Bermuda at that time. Examples include:
- **Medical Specialists:** If Bermuda's physician-per-capita ratio for a given specialty falls below recommended international guidelines.
 - **Critical Rota Staffing:** Medical practitioners in essential specialties required to maintain a critical rotation schedule for public safety.

Requirements for Applicants Under the Exceptions Policy

Applicants considered under the exceptions policy must:

1. Verify their primary medical degree, postgraduate training qualifications, and current license through an approved international credential verification agency—currently EPIC.
2. Demonstrate English language competency.
3. Complete an interview process before registration can be confirmed.
4. Accept that the BMC reserves the right to:
 - Grant provisional registration under Section 7A of the MPA.
 - Advise of a qualifying examination requirement under Section 8 of the MPA.

Applicability of Policy

This policy applies exclusively to new applicants seeking registration as medical practitioners in Bermuda. It does not apply to medical practitioners renewing their registration, who will follow the standard renewal process.