



# PRA-BC

PRACTICE READY ASSESSMENT  
- PHYSICIANS FOR BC



**Dr. Jie (Bella) Bai**  
PRA-BC Graduate and Assessor  
Richmond, BC

**Bringing qualified  
Family Physicians  
to BC since 2015.**



## What is PRA-BC?

PRA-BC is an assessment program for **internationally trained family physicians** who have completed family medicine residencies outside of Canada. PRA-BC provides these physicians with an alternative pathway to licensure at a time when many BC communities are experiencing physician shortages.

Candidates undergo a **Centralized Orientation** followed by a **12-week Clinical Field Assessment (CFA)** where their clinical skills are rigorously assessed. Those who successfully complete program requirements go on to fulfill a **3-year Return of Service (ROS)** in a BC community of need.

# How does PRA-BC work?

Physicians who meet the initial screening and selection eligibility criteria are referred to health authorities/clinics for interviews. Those who are selected for sponsorship by a health authority/clinic are invited to attend a PRA-BC intake.

There are two components to PRA-BC:

1. A Centralized Orientation (CO) is designed to orient internationally trained physicians to practicing medicine in Canada and prepare them for a 12-week Clinical Field Assessment (CFA).
2. A 12-week CFA is designed to evaluate a candidate's readiness for independent medical practice as a most responsible physician (MRP). The CFA involves direct and indirect candidate supervision and evaluation of patient care and occurs in multiple settings (e.g. ambulatory/ community clinic, ER, hospital inpatient ward, and long-term care). It is expected that candidates will be assessed in the typical practice settings that the physician assessor works in.



*"Internationally trained physicians continue to make a valuable contribution to the delivery of health care and patient services, particularly in rural communities. The PRA-BC program helps fill the demand for skilled physicians within BC's rural health authorities and its underserved rural communities."*

**Dr. Alan Ruddiman**  
Director and Lead  
Rural Program Liaisons  
RCCbc



# Community Selection and Program Overview

1. Health authorities confirm communities and clinics of need where successful candidates may complete a three-year return of service (ROS).
2. PRA-BC refers physician applicants to full-time positions in these communities.
3. Health authorities, clinics, and physician leaders interview applicants.
4. Clinics select and health authorities sponsor their preferred candidates.
5. Selected candidates attend a PRA-BC intake.

PRA-BC graduates obtain CPSBC provisional licensure and commence a 3-year ROS in a designated community.



**Dr. Joerg Jaschinski**  
PRA-BC Assessor  
Sechelt, BC

# Sponsoring a PRA-BC Candidate

PRA-BC graduates must provide full-time, full-scope family practice services for the full term of their 3-year ROS.

A clinic that wishes to recruit a PRA-BC candidate must:

- ✓ Clearly define their scope of service (e.g. inpatient and ER coverage, on-call duties, patient load, overhead costs, etc.) and physician compensation model (e.g. fee-for-service).
- ✓ Be able to supervise their successful candidate on their provisional class of registration.
- ✓ Commit to holding the position until their sponsored candidate completes the program.

*"One of the best programs for internationally trained physicians wanting to work in Canada, as it benefits the patients, the doctor and the community in general."*

**Dr. Joseph Obanye**  
**PRA-BC Graduate and Assessor**  
**Quesnel, BC**



# Clinical Field Assessment

PRA-BC candidates will spend 12 weeks in a specified community, under the direct supervision of trained physician assessors, where their clinical skills will be observed and assessed daily.

Candidates are assessed in a community that differs from their ROS community.

CFA assessors:

- Are confirmed and supported by their health authority
- Receive training at PRA-BC's "Assessor Training Workshop"

## Why our assessors participate:

*"I have had the privilege of having a PRA physician in my clinic, so felt it was the least I could do."*

*"I was an IMG myself and I wanted to give something back to the healthcare system, while incorporating my experience as an IMG."*

*"To be part of performing quality assessments of physicians in order to decrease the doctor shortages with suitable candidate placement."*



**Dr. Carol Bosch**  
PRA-BC Graduate  
Family Physician  
Sechelt, BC

# PRA-BC Candidate Qualifications

## Initial Screening Eligibility Criteria:

*\*Developed jointly by PRA-BC and the CPSBC*

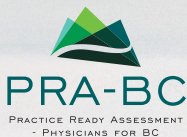
1. Medical degree issued by a school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDOMS).
2. Two years of international postgraduate training (PGT) leading to registration as a family physician.
3. Completion of 7 core rotations:
  - Minimum 4 weeks of PGT in internal/general medicine, general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and emergency medicine;
  - Minimum 8 weeks of PGT in family medicine.
4. Completion of a minimum of 2 years of independent practice as a family physician in an international jurisdiction.
5. Academic credentials verification on physiciansapply.ca.
6. Currency in practice: minimum 960 hours of clinical practice as a family physician in preceding 3 years (Section 2-8, CPSBC bylaws).
7. A current CV that fully explains all activities, professional or otherwise.
8. English language proficiency (Section 2-2 (2), CPSBC bylaws).
9. Successful pass score on the MCCQE Part 1.

## Additional selection eligibility criteria:

Pass score on the Medical Council of Canada Therapeutics Decision Making (MCC TDM) examination.

**\*Please note:** All PRA-BC pre-screening requirements are subject to change at any time.





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