

September 28, 2020

Ms. Rosemary Pawliuk
President, Society for Canadians
Studying Medicine Abroad
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Dear Ms.Pawliuk:

I am writing in follow-up to the conversation that we had with Dr. Sandy Buchman on July 3, 2020. As promised, I have reviewed the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) policy with respect to access to the postgraduate medical training system, particularly as it relates to International Medical Graduates.

The CMA has long been concerned about the lack of flexibility and sufficient capacity in the postgraduate training system. The CMA's recommendations are stated clearly in our policy document *Flexibility in Medical Training*.¹ Although the statement has not been updated since 2009, it was reviewed and deemed still current by the CMA Board of Directors in February, 2020.

Specifically as it relates to International Medical Graduates (IMGs), defined as individuals who receive their MD degree from a program other than the undergraduate program at one of Canada's medical schools, the policy states:

It is necessary to provide IMGs with a reasonable opportunity to attain their postgraduate credentials and become licensed to practise in Canada. This reflects the CMA's recognition of the important contribution that IMGs have made, and continue to make, in the provision of medical services, teaching and research in Canada. Opportunities for IMGs will also permit Canadians who study medicine abroad to pursue their medical careers in Canada.

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¹ <https://policybase.cma.ca/documents/PolicyPDF/PD09-05.pdf>



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With regard to the issue of the necessary qualifications to enter postgraduate medical training in Canada, and specifically who should take the National Assessment Collaboration Examination, CMA has not developed policy in this area. These matters are determined by the Medical Council of Canada, the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada, and the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada.

In closing, the CMA will continue to advocate for expanded capacity and flexibility in the postgraduate training system.

Sincerely,

Owen Adams, PhD
Senior Advisor to the CEO