Practice Ready Assessment (PRA-BC)

Is your practice interested in being considered for participation in the **Practice Ready Assessment (PRA-BC)** Return of Service program?

Nine candidate placements are available for the **Spring 2027** intake; candidates from this intake will be practice ready in **Fall 2027.** We are also accepting applications for the **Interim Fall 2027** intake; candidates from this intake will be practice ready in **Spring 2028.** The Interim Fall 2027 intake, allows time for overseas candidates to complete the necessary immigration steps required to participate in the PRA-BC program. **PRA-BC ROS physicians have a three (3) year Return of Service.**

What is PRA-BC?

PRA-BC is an assessment program for internationally educated 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 9-day 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.

Clinic Eligibility:

Clinics must fully complete and submit the on-line clinic application and clearly define their scope of service (e.g. inpatient and emergency room (ER) coverage, on-call duties, long term care (LTC), patient panel, overhead costs).

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

- Ensure the PRA-BC physician can provide full-time, full-scope family practice services for the 3-year ROS with the ability to assume or establish their own patient panel. Not intended for walk-in or rotating locum.
- If assuming a patient panel, the panel size requirement within the first year should not exceed the MoH requirement under the NTP contract (600-800, depending on community). The ROS Physician may accept a larger panel at their own discretion.
- Compensation models (Longitudinal Family Physician Payment Model, Fee for Service, or New to Practice Contract) are available for Return of Service physicians, who are permitted to choose the compensation model that will work best for them, unless the clinic is on an Alternative Payment Plan (APP) contract.
- Be able to supervise their matched IMG physician in their provisional class of registration.
  Guidelines for Supervision of Registrants in the Provisional Class
- Commit to holding the position until the matched International Medical Graduate (IMG) physician successfully completes the CFA.
- Clinics who participate in the program are **expected** to participate as Clinical Field Assessment sites, if eligible to act as a CFA site.

PRA-BC Spring 2027 and Interim Spring 2027 Applications: **Deadline for clinic applications is August 3, 2026**

- We request all interested clinics review the documents in their entirety, complete and submit the NEW on-line application form no later than **August 3, 2025**.
  - **Link to On-Line Application:** https://redcap.viha.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=YJM9HMH8N38TTC4K
- Following receipt of applications, the Island Health ROS working group will meet to review and select communities/clinics. Applicants will be advised whether or not your clinic is successful prior to August 28, 2026.
- Mandatory participation in ROS Placement Clinic Meeting with Island Health and members of the ROS Working Group. **Meeting is set for September 3, 2026 at 5 pm to 6 pm via Teams.**
- During the week of October 5, 2026 successful clinics will be provided with a list of applicants to their clinic, including CVs and any other documents to consider for shortlisting and interviews.
- Interviews must be completed by Wednesday November 25, 2026.
- Candidate rankings are to be submitted to medstaffrecruitment@islandhealth.ca no later than November 25, 2026.
- Successful clinics will be advised of the provincial matching outcome after the December 4, 2026 PRA-BC Executive Steering Committee meeting.

Please note: A placement/match is not guaranteed. *Although your clinic may be selected to participate in the program; your practice/clinic may not match with a candidate or the matched candidate may not pass their clinical field assessment.*

Clinical Field Assessors

IMG physicians in the PRA-BC program must complete a 12-week Clinical Field Assessment (CFA) period prior to being considered eligible for Provisional registration with the College. The PRA-BC candidate physicians complete their CFA at a different clinic/community then the clinic/community they matched with for their ROS. During the CFA the PRA-BC candidate is required to complete 10 ER shifts or 10 UPCC shifts. The Spring 2027 CFA will run from April 12, 2026 to July 2, 2026. As part of this program, there is an **expectation** that clinics who benefit from the placement of a PRA-BC program candidate will support the program by becoming a CFA site and identify a primary and secondary assessor, if the clinic is eligible to be a CFA site. The Spring 2027 Assessor Training Workshops run on either February 26, 2026 or March 5, 2026 virtually.

The Fall 2027 CFA will run September 2027 to December 2027 – exact dates still to be determined.

Additional details about the program are found here:

- PRA-BC Program Website

Please direct questions to: Island Health Medical Staff Recruitment - medstaffrecruitment@islandhealth.ca

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