



Saskatchewan-Based Assessment of  
International Medical Graduates (IMGs)  
*Information Sheet*

Former Assessment Process	New Saskatchewan-Based Assessment Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only foreign-trained doctors from seven countries were eligible for assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMGs will eventually be assessed from <b>all countries</b> as long as they meet pre-screening criteria. This allows the province to assess a wider range of physicians and promotes recruitment to the province.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMGs were assessed after they began practice. This created a major disruption of service when IMGs were required to leave their patients for a period of time to be assessed, or had licenses revoked due to poor assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMGs will be <b>assessed prior to independent practice</b>. This allows for safer patient care, as well as seamless health care delivery, as physicians will no longer need to leave their practice to be assessed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMGs received orientation after they had their temporary license and had begun providing care to patients.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMGs will receive <b>orientation</b> to the Canadian practice environment <b>prior to assessment</b>. This helps doctors adjust to the province and increases their chances of success.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required IMG to practise in group setting until successfully passing their assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Group practice is no longer a requirement</b>. This means IMGs will be allowed to head directly to the community to which they were recruited to begin practice following their successful assessment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saskatchewan has been the only province in Canada that allows physicians to begin practising before being assessed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Closely aligns Saskatchewan with national standards</b> currently under development, as a result of the Agreement on Internal Trade.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 55 physicians assessed a year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Preparing for 90 assessments a year.</b></li> </ul>

**Transition Period Between Current and New Assessments**

The Ministry, with the Saskatchewan Medical Association and College of Physicians and Surgeons, has developed a transition process to accommodate situations where communities have an urgent need for a physician during the three-month transition period of October 1, 2010 to January 1, 2011.

Under special circumstances, IMGs will be evaluated using the CAPE assessment through the University of Manitoba. The transition period will be challenging and require adjustments. However, Saskatchewan residents will reap the benefits when more physicians ultimately are able to practise in our communities.

