

Comments Requested on Proposed Amendments to Registration Regulation

In April 2022, Bill 106, the *Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Act*, was introduced that requires all health profession regulatory colleges to establish an emergency class of registration. An emergency class of registration is a temporary class of registration that provides for the expedited registration of healthcare professionals.

At its March 2, 2023, Special Meeting, September meeting, Council approved the proposed amendments to the Registration Regulation as they relate to the emergency class of registration and their circulation. If approved by the Ministry of Health, these amendments would require Council to create an emergency class of registration and set out its requirements as required by Bill 106 and in keeping with the guidance provided by the Ministry of Health. To expedite the registration process in this context, some of the requirements that are required for registration in the general or academic certificate of registration class, are proposed to be changed. These proposed changes are detailed in the accompanying Council Briefing Note. The proposed amendments with rationales, are provided in tracked changes and in chart form ([Here](#)). The tracked changes in **red font** are Council approved amendments from 2018 still awaiting Ministry of Health approval, and the tracked changes **with grey highlighting**, are the proposed emergency class amendments.

The proposed amendments:

- Require an applicant for the emergency class to be a candidate in their final year of an accredited optometry degree program or to be graduates of a non-accredited institution who has successfully passed the Internationally Graduated Optometrist Evaluating Examination or its equivalent;
- Require an applicant for the emergency class to be of good character which was added in the 2018 proposed amendments to the Regulation;
- Require that a registrant practising under the emergency class, to only be permitted to practise under the supervision of a registrant of the College holding a general certificate of registration who is in good standing with the College;
- Require registrants practising under the emergency class, to self-identify to the public as an emergency class registrant and only use the title of optometrist (emergency class);
- Set out the conditions under which the emergency certificate of registration is automatically revoked;
- Provide a means for emergency class registrants to apply for general or academic certificates of registration with at least some requirements exempted, in keeping with guidance from the Ministry of Health. The exempted requirements would involve not

requiring the emergency class registrants to complete the jurisprudence exam or pay the application fee associated with the two classes of registration. Through their minimum of one year of supervised practice and completion of the jurisprudence seminar, emergency class registrants will have gained a significant understanding of topics covered on the jurisprudence exam; and

- Provide the Registrar the discretion to refer registrants other than emergency class registrants, for a practice assessment under the College's quality assurance program. The need for this change became apparent during the pandemic when registrants were unable to meet the minimum practice hour requirement.

The Council Briefing Note can be found [here](#).

Your comments are invited

The complete Regulation with proposed amendments can be viewed on the [College website](#). Your input is important. Please send us your comments by email or mail.

Email

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Mail

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Deadline for comments is 8:30 a.m. on May 1, 2023.