

Bulletin 241203

To: Nova Scotia Regulator of Paramedicine Registrants

Date: December 3, 2024

Re: Fee Increases/Professional Liability Insurance/Currency of Practice Changes for the February 1 to March 31, 2025, Annual Licence Renewal

The Nova Scotia Regulator of Paramedicine (the Regulator) is keen to share important updates with all Registrants regarding three key items impacting the annual licence renewal process from February 1 to March 31, 2025.

Fee Increases

Increasing Registrant fees is always a challenging decision. However, ensuring we fulfil our mandate to serve and protect the public interest is essential. As a self-regulated profession, our work focuses on maintaining high safety, quality, and accountability standards. Registrant fees are the only source of revenue to support core regulatory functions, including licensing, professional conduct, and developing regulatory tools to safeguard the public.

The Regulator increases fees only when necessary to remain financially sustainable. Several factors, including inflation, the ongoing transfer to a new legislative regime under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)* mandated by the Government, and the new Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) licence category, have necessitated this change.

Despite our best efforts to control costs continuously, without a fee change, operating costs for regulatory functions are increasing faster than revenues, thus impacting our ability to fulfil our public protection mandate.

While we recognize that fee increases may not always be welcome, this adjustment enables us to sustain the rigorous processes and resources necessary for upholding trust in our profession. By strengthening our capacity to deliver on these responsibilities, we affirm our commitment to the public and ensure that the profession meets its obligations with integrity and excellence.

The fee increases include:

- New to practice application - \$175
- Labour mobility/registrant from another jurisdiction application - \$175
- Expired license application - \$175
- International practitioner application - \$250
- Initial registration/Licensing - \$575
- Annual licence renewal - \$575
- Change in category of licence - \$60
- Verification of registration/licensing fee - \$60
- Reinstatement of registration or licensing application fee - \$400

Professional Liability Insurance Requirements

Requiring licenced registrants to have Professional liability insurance is a vital measure that reflects the highest standards of professionalism, accountability, and commitment to public protection. It underscores the regulator's dedication to upholding trust and transparency while reinforcing its initiative-taking approach to risk management in two significant ways.

First, it ensures that members of the public have a reliable avenue for financial compensation in the rare event of harm caused by a registrant's conduct.

Second, it also safeguards registrants by providing essential coverage for defence costs in regulatory or civil proceedings, relieving them of the significant personal financial burden that could arise from such situations.

As the Regulator migrated under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*, it became clear that all licenced registrants would require professional liability insurance in which they were the “named insured” and that the insurance must be independent of the Regulator.

Therefore, between February 1 and March 31, 2025, and in all future licence renewal periods, licenced registrants will be required to provide proof of professional liability insurance that:

- specifically names the registrant in the policy,
- provides professional liability coverage for the individual in the amount of \$5,000,000 per occurrence and a \$10,000,000 aggregate limit,
- the aggregate limit of which should not be associated with occurrences involving more than one individual,
- provides defence costs,
- provides continuous individual insurance in the registrant’s name (neither practice-specific nor employer-provided insurance will be acceptable) and
- an extended reporting period endorsement.

This prioritizes individual coverage to ensure that registrants are directly protected, independent of their employer's arrangements. It enhances registrants' professional autonomy and ensures uninterrupted protection throughout their careers, further strengthening public confidence in paramedicine.

Requiring proof of professional liability insurance as part of the annual license renewal process ensures consistency, fairness, and diligence, thereby fostering excellence and trust within the profession.

The NSRoP does not provide registrants with professional liability insurance because it must maintain impartiality and protect the public interest.

One of the NSRoP's primary roles is to ensure registrants comply with professional standards and address professional conduct matters impartially. Therefore, providing liability insurance to its registrants may create a perceived or actual conflict of interest because the NSRoP may have a financial stake in the outcome of claims.

Additionally, requiring registrants to secure their own liability insurance reinforces the principles of self-regulation by ensuring that registrants take personal responsibility for their practice. Individual registrants are accountable for meeting their legal and professional obligations.

When this bulletin was published, LloydSadd was the only known insurer who provided a professional liability insurance policy that fulfilled the abovementioned requirements. The hyperlink to the LloydSadd application is [Paramedic Program | Lloyd Sadd](#).

If registrants are aware that other insurers provide professional liability insurance based on the requirements described above, they are encouraged to advise the Regulator.

Currency of Practice Requirements

Effective the annual licence renewal period of February 1 to March 31, 2025, all registrants seeking a licence must prove their currency to practice. This requirement is described in the NSRoP Bylaw Article 24.1(c), which may be accessed via this hyperlink [196019](#).

In short, registrants are required to have engaged in the practice of paramedicine for a minimum of one of the following:

- 75 hours within the previous 12 licensing months before applying to the Regulator.
- 225 hours within the previous 3 licensing years before applying to the Regulator.
- 375 hours within the previous 5 licensing years, with no continuous absence from practice for two consecutive years, before applying to the Regulator.

Practice hours are not limited to clinical practice only; practice hours may be accumulated in any practice setting where the individual must hold a licence with the Regulator as part of their job requirement.

Those practice settings may include relevant research, education, inter-professional collaboration, consultation, management, administration, advocacy, regulation, and system development that are relevant to the activities and application of specialized and evidence-based paramedicine knowledge, skills and judgement as described in Paramedicine Regulation 6 (1) and (2).