

Greetings from the National Sub-Specialty Committee for Interventional Radiology of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada!

In 2016, Interventional Radiology was fully recognized as a subspecialty of the Royal College.

A certification examination has now been created.

University residency programs in Interventional Radiology are being established. This will lead to standardized training in Interventional Radiology across the country. Residents who complete these accredited programs will be eligible to apply for an assessment to determine their eligibility to the certification examination through the [traditional route](#).

We are communicating to inform you that practicing Interventional Radiologists and recent trainees from traditional Interventional Radiology fellowships may also be eligible to apply for an assessment to determine their eligibility to the certification examination through the [Practice Eligibility Route for Subspecialists \(PERsub\)](#).

PERsub is available for physicians practicing in a subspecialty in Canada who are not eligible for the traditional credentials review as a result of completing unaccredited training in Canada or abroad or as a result of completing no formal subspecialty training at all. PERsub instead assesses your current scope of practice along with your educational credentials and other supporting documentation to determine if you are eligible to challenge the certification examinations to be assessed against the national standard.

Any practicing Interventional Radiologist in Canada who has Royal College certification in Diagnostic Radiology (FRCPC in Diagnostic Radiology) may be eligible to apply, and this includes recent graduates of fellowship programs in Interventional Radiology as well, if they meet the minimum criteria established in order to apply for assessment under one of the two Cohorts.



You may have some questions:

Why should I take another examination?

There are several very good reasons why.

1. Having Royal College certification means that you have met the standard set out by the Royal College. This is an achievement of which you can be proud. You will have a second FRCPC, in Interventional Radiology.
2. Patients recognize that Royal College certification means something.
3. Over time, subspecialty certification will take an increasing importance in the licensing, credentialing and privileging of physicians in Interventional Radiology.
4. Interventional Radiologists in Canada, led by their National Specialty Society (CIRA now CAIR) fought very hard for a decade to have Interventional Radiology in Canada recognized by the Royal College. That recognition is now secured. However, the subspecialty will only truly be recognized by the medical community when we have a solid base of practicing Royal College certified Interventional Radiologists. It will take many, many years for this to occur simply from candidates from the approved or soon to be approved Royal College residency programs. Other newly recognized subspecialties in Canada have seen large numbers of practicing physicians successfully obtain Royal College certification via PERsub.
5. As Royal College accredited programs in Interventional Radiology become established in Universities, it will be helpful to have Royal College certified faculty.
6. Governments and funding agencies are aware of the new subspecialty status of Interventional Radiology. Having a strong base of certified Interventional Radiologists will help us achieve our mission as stated by CAIR to improve the health and quality of life of Canadians through minimally invasive image guided therapy.



What type of examination will it be and will it be hard?

1. The examination will consist of short answer questions and will be offered at multiple sites across the country just as the written component for Diagnostic Radiology is offered at multiple sites.
2. There is **no oral type examination** with an examiner.
3. An example of a short answer question is: "Name 4 possible complications of procedure X".
4. The examination will be 3 hours long and consist of 90 to 120 short answer questions (SAQs).
5. The examination will be offered in the fall of the year.
6. The examination is set to test minimal competence. We expect the success rate to be quite high for Interventional Radiologists currently in practice.
7. For more information regarding examination format and general examination information, see the links below:

<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/ibd-search-e>

<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/credentials-exams-e>

How do I apply to sit the examination?

1. Once the application is available it can be accessed via the link below:
<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/credentials-exams/exam-eligibility/per-sub/practice-eligibility-route-subspecialists-application-e>
2. The deadline to submit the application is August 31st of the year *before* you wish to sit the examination and the assessment process can take 6 – 8 months. For example, the deadline for a Fall 2020 examination is August 31, 2019.
3. The application is designed to assess your scope of practice and training.
4. The application will be reviewed by the Royal College to determine if you are eligible to challenge the examination. In other words: Does your practice and training fit within the scope of Interventional Radiology?
5. If you are determined to be eligible for the examinations, the examination registration deadline is May 15th of the year in which you wish to challenge the examination.



What if I do not have Royal College certification in my primary specialty of Diagnostic Radiology?

The Royal College has also recently launched the **Practice Eligibility Route for the Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (PER-SEAP)**. PER-SEAP is a new route for internationally trained specialists practicing in Canada in a subspecialty who are **not** Royal College certified in a primary specialty. Through PER-SEAP, those who pass the subspecialty examination will have the option of becoming a Royal College Subspecialist Affiliate and may participate in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program. The Subspecialist Affiliate status is highly regarded by patients and peers as evidence of commitment to maintaining competence and enhancing performance through lifelong learning. More information can be accessed via the link below:

<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/membership/join-the-royal-college/become-subspecialist-affiliate-e>

The deadline to submit the application is August 31st of the year before you wish to sit the examination and the assessment process can take 6 – 8 months. If found eligible for the examinations, the examination registration deadline is May 15th of the year in which you wish to sit the examination.

For further information regarding the eligibility criteria to apply for PER-SEAP as well as the application form and instructions, please refer to the link below:

<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/credentials-exams/exam-eligibility/assessment-imgs/subspecialty-examination-affiliate-program-seap-e>

We strongly encourage you to apply to challenge the examination and obtain your Fellowship or Subspecialist Affiliate status in Interventional Radiology. We encourage both academic and community based Interventional Radiologists to apply.