

Rainbow Health Ontario reached out to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for an organizational stance on national standardization. We asked them to comment on the status of the CanMEDS framework update, particularly how it would account for 2SLGBTQ health care education and calls to standardize this in training programs nationwide.

A representative shared the following response:

When it comes to creating competency-based and licensure-related standards that hold programs accountable, the CanMEDS Framework is critical. Please find below information about an Open Call for updates to the CanMEDS Framework, as well as information on our strategic plan.

With the Open Call, it is important to note that this is the first step in collecting feedback (more will come), and the revised Framework will not go live until late 2025/2026.

1) CanMEDS Open Call

The CanMEDS Framework identifies and describes the abilities physicians require to effectively meet the health care needs of the people they serve. These abilities are grouped thematically and are integrated as competencies to shape physician education and career-long evolution of competence. The CanMEDS Framework is revised regularly with input from many representative groups, including the Canadian Queer Medical Students Association.

As part of the latest round of updates, the Royal College and our partnering organizations embarked on the multi-year project to gather broad public opinion to help improve the next iteration of the CanMEDS Framework (expected to be developed by 2025-26). Early input from collaborators indicated that the revisions should consider and explore:

- reviewing the existing seven CanMEDS roles with conversations on six additional themes,
- goals of anti-racism and anti-oppression,
- goals of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA),
- response to current societal needs and those expected in the next 10 years, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations as well as new themes, which will be addressed with the addition of new competencies.

The national consultation process to date has been extensive and will continue to be central to the development of the framework over the coming years. The CanMEDS Open Call is currently soliciting meaningful input from a wide and diversified breadth of interested parties to guide the next iteration of the CanMEDS Framework. You can submit to the Open Call via the following link: CanMEDS: A competency framework for physicians throughout their career (alchemer-ca.com), and the deadline for submission is December 31, 2023.

2) Royal College's Strategic Plan

The Royal College has also released our Strategic Plan 2023-2026 (royalcollege.ca). Extensive consultations identified three complex societal areas that are impacting the care specialist physicians deliver:

- Health human resources and workforce well-being,

- Indigenous health, anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion, and
- Planetary health and sustainable health care

These issues need to be addressed collectively by our membership, and as such, we have integrated these as themes into each of our core areas so we can begin to address the learning challenges and programming requirements inherent in each.