



# Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board

## *Interpretation Guide*

### English Language Proficiency Requirements for Registration

Revised September 2014

The *Pharmacy Act, 2012* states that applicants for registration must have “a working knowledge of the English language sufficient to enable him or her to practice” as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician in the province. For the purposes of this section, all applicants for registration are required to meet the English language proficiency requirements defined by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities described below and in the attached appendices (see Appendix I for Pharmacists and Appendix II for Pharmacy Technicians).<sup>1</sup>

1. Pharmacist applicants who have received a university degree from a Canadian program accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) or an American program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), with the exception of CCAPP-accredited pharmacy programs in Quebec, will not be required to undergo English language proficiency testing unless a “trigger” suggests that such testing is necessary.
2. Pharmacy technician applicants who have received a diploma or certificate from a pharmacy technician program accredited by CCAPP, with the exception of CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician programs in Quebec, will not be required to undergo English language proficiency testing unless a “trigger” suggests that such testing is necessary.

**PLEASE NOTE:** During the transition period (until December 31, 2017), pharmacy technician applicants who have not graduated from a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program may demonstrate English language proficiency by providing a transcript or diploma that confirms graduation from a secondary school, university, community college or private vocational program or equivalent located in Canada or the United States that includes English as part of the required curriculum.

3. All other applicants for registration will be required to successfully complete one of the approved English language proficiency tests listed in the appendices prior to the commencement of any structured practice experience period.
4. Pharmacists or pharmacy technicians already registered with the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board may also be required to demonstrate English language proficiency if a “trigger” is identified.

#### **Triggers**

Less than adequate English language proficiency is identified by:

- a. A preceptor
- b. A patient or their representative
- c. Another health professional

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<sup>1</sup> To view the complete documents, NAPRA’s *Language Proficiency Requirements for Licensure as a Pharmacist in Canada* and *NAPRA’s Language Proficiency Requirements for Licensure as a Pharmacy Technician in Canada*, please visit [www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca).

**Appendix I**  
**English Proficiency Requirements for Pharmacists**

Test	Details		Minimum Score	SEM** +/-
1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Internet-based test (iBT)	Speaking	27	2
		Writing	25	3
		Reading	-	
		Listening	-	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>5</b>
	Paper-based test (PBT)	Test of Written English (TWE)	5	0.3
		Test of Spoken English (TSE)	50	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>14</b>
	Computer-based test (CBT)	No Longer Administered		
2. Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)		Speaking	3+	
		Writing	82	3
		Reading	*	
		Listening	*	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3</b>
3. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Academic format	Speaking	6	0.5
		Writing	6	0.5
		Reading	6	
		Listening	6	
		<b>Overall Band</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.5</b>
4. The Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST)		Speaking	4.5	X***
		Writing	4.5	X***
		Reading	4.5	X***
		Listening	4.5	X***
		<b>Total</b>	<b>X***</b>	<b>X***</b>

\* Standard setting procedures only focused on the writing and speaking components. The minimum total scores implicitly account for the scores for reading and listening.

\*\* SEM = Standard Error of Measurement

\*\*\* All final band scores on the CanTEST, account already for the SEM. CanTEST does not report total scores.

Official assessment results must be sent directly from the testing agency to the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board or verifiable through the testing agency's online verification system, if available.

Assessment results will be accepted as valid if completed within two years prior to commencement of the practical training period.

**Appendix II**  
**English Proficiency Requirements for Pharmacy Technicians**

Test	Details		Minimum Score	SEM* +/-
1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Internet-based test (iBT)	Speaking	23	2
		Writing	25	3
		Reading	22	2
		Listening	21	2
		<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>5</b>
2. Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)		Speaking	3+	X**
		Writing	80	X**
		Reading	83	4
		Listening	80	3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>3</b>
3. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Academic format	Speaking	6	X**
		Writing	6	X**
		Reading	6	X**
		Listening	6	X**
		<b>Overall Band</b>	<b>6.5</b>	
4. The Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST)		Speaking	4.5	X**
		Writing	4.0	X**
		Reading	4.5	X**
		Listening	4.5	X**
		<b>Total</b>	<b>X**</b>	<b>X**</b>

\*SEM = Standard Error of Measurement

\*\* For IELTS, no section scores less than 6.0, accounting already for the SEM. Likewise scores for Writing and Speaking on the MELAB, and all final band scores on the CanTEST, account already for the SEM. CanTEST does not report total scores

Official assessment results must be sent directly from the testing agency to the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board or verifiable through the testing agency's online verification system, if available.

Assessment results will be accepted as valid if completed within two years prior to commencement of the practical training period.