



Canadian Medicine Primer

Facilitating a successful transition to residency training and postgraduate education for visa trainees in Ontario.

The Canadian Medicine Primer (CMP) is professional programming developed by our physician Curricular Advisory Committee for visa trainees transitioning to training in Ontario. Through our competency-based programs, we offer curriculum, orientation, supports and services that are designed to provide an orientation to the Canadian health care system and prepare visa trainees to work effectively in the Ontario health care environment. Starting in 2019, Touchstone Institute offers updated programming that provides more curricular content than in previous years, at reduced rates, and with greater accessibility.

New in 2019, we have added additional content tailored to all visa trainees and have enhanced offerings for visa fellows, focusing on their supervisory role in post-graduate training.

Blended Delivery:

- 2 weeks of blended in-class and online orientation: visa trainees join other Ontario-matched international medical graduates (IMGs) in core programming
- Participants are offered an opportunity to build relationships with practicing physicians and peers, including fellows, family medicine, and other specialty residents

Foundational Sessions:

- Additional customized programming provide visa trainees with dedicated sessions tailored to their training and transition needs, while also integrating their IMG counterparts in relevant core sessions
- Dedicated sessions for all visa trainees include: Medical Care in Canada, Medico-Legal Issues in Canada, Cross Cultural Competency & Cultural Safety, and Foundations of Allied Health
- Dedicated sessions for clinical fellows also include: Feedback Methodology, Understanding ITERs & Fellowship, and Managing a Team as a Clinical Fellow

Simulation Based:

- Programming includes large-and small-group interactions with simulated patients that focus on interprofessional dynamics and professional communication
- Simulations provide an opportunity for trainees to practise and receive feedback on communication, professionalism, patient management skills and medical expertise
- Visa fellows are guided into a supervisory role, exploring the theory and practice of providing feedback to residents in clinical settings
- A new simulated patient integration model allows visa fellows to engage in dedicated simulated patient encounters tailored to their training level, while continuing to provide opportunities to practise and receive feedback on their provision of feedback to PGY1 trainees

Competency Based:

- CMP curriculum and formative assessments are rooted in CanMEDS 2015 and CanMEDS-FM 2017 frameworks
- Sessions address competencies specified by the Transition to Discipline and Foundations of Discipline stages in the CBD Competence Continuum

Mentorship and Advising:

- A mentorship program focuses on the unique challenges that visa trainees may have with the curriculum, integration into Ontario, and/or preparation for their post-graduate training
- A personal academic advisor is made available to all visa trainees upon request



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Programming That Works

Since 2014, the Canadian Medicine Primer has positively impacted the transition of nearly 200 visa trainees in Ontario. Our Ontario-specific programming ensures that trainees receive foundational experience, exposure, and an opportunity to practise the competencies necessary for successful training in Ontario.

*“Appropriate content,
professional activities.
Overall great experience!”*

*“Well organized, on time, very
professional. Outstanding
simulated patients, outstanding
lecturers. Very approachable
staff, very pertinent material.”*

*“This course was a very positive
experience. It did show me that
my training was on par ... It was
also great to meet other trainees
and others going to my school.
It helps make the transition into
training easier knowing you're
not alone.”*

– 2018 Participant Feedback



Program Fees & Registration

With our new model, we are able to provide greater accessibility to our program by providing a range of payment options. All visa trainees are welcome to attend the CMP, regardless of sponsor or referral.

Please contact your PGME office for a referral, or contact us directly via primer@tsin.ca for referral information and payment options.

**All visa trainees attending the program must be referred
– whether by their PGME Office or Program.**

Program Dates & Further Information

To learn more about our programming and associated dates, please visit our website or email us.

touchstoneinstitute.ca/education • primer@tsin.ca