

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021

No. of 2021

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

CLAUSE

1.	Short title.....	4
2.	Interpretation.....	4
3.	Amendment of section 2 of the Principal Act - Interpretation	4
4.	Amendment of section 13 – Registration	5

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021
NO. OF 2021

AN ACT to amend the Medical Practitioners Act, No. 3 of 2009 and for other connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows:

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 2021.

2. Interpretation

In this Act—

“principal Act” means the Medical Practitioners Act, No. 3 of 2009.

3. Amendment of section 2 of the Principal Act - Interpretation

The principal Act is amended in section 2 by inserting the following words in the appropriate order:

“accreditation” means a determination by the Authority, as appropriate, that an institution or a programme of study meets the prescribed standard stipulated by the Authority;

“Authority” means the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), established pursuant to Article 2 of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions, signed at Castries, St. Lucia on the 13th day of November 2003;

“award” means a degree, diploma, certificate or other evidence that a prescribed programme of study in medicine has been completed successfully by a person;

“Board” means the Accreditation Board established pursuant to section 3 of the Accreditation Act, No. 4 of 2006;

“institution” means a university, college or body empowered to confer authority to practice medicine by the law of the country or place where it is granted and which in the opinion of the Medical Council is evidence of satisfactory medical training; and

“programme of study in medicine” means a curriculum comprising a series of courses in medical education leading to the granting of an award from an institution.

4. Amendment of section 13 – Registration

The principal Act is amended in section 13 by—

(a) repealing subsection (2) and replacing it as follows:

“(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a person is qualified and eligible to be registered as a general practitioner if that person has been granted an award by an institution.”

(b) inserting immediately after subsection (2) the following new subsections:

“(2A) The Medical Council shall apply the standards set from time to time by the Authority and shall maintain a list of accredited institutions and the Chairperson of the Medical Council (or a person nominated by him or her) shall make the necessary investigation to verify and ensure the suitability of any institution before entering that institution in the list of accredited institutions.

“(2B) The Minister of Education may, on the advice of the Board, provisionally authorise an institution to offer a programme of study in medicine pending accreditation by the Authority.

“(2C) A provisional authorisation granted pursuant to subsection (2B), shall be revoked if the institution fails to obtain accreditation by the Authority within twelve (12) months from the date on which the institution was granted provisional authorisation.”

Passed by the House of Representatives
on the _____, 2021.

Passed by the Senate
on the _____, 2021

Speaker.

President.

Clerk to the House of Representatives.

Clerk to the Senate.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This primary objective of this Bill is to incorporate amendments which were made to the Accreditation Act, 2006 into the Medical Practitioners Act, 2009.

Under section 43 of the Accreditation Act, The Minister of Education is empowered to grant an institution provisional authorisation to offer a programme of study in medicine pending accreditation from the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP).

The effect of that provision means that a person who was granted an award from an institution which is accredited to offer a programme of study in medicine then becomes qualified and eligible to apply to the Medical Council to be registered as a general practitioner.

The Medical Council which is a Board established under the Medical Practitioners Act with responsibility for the registration and licensing of medical practitioners, as well as the regulation of medical practice in Antigua and Barbuda, applies the standards set by CAAM-HP. Consequently, a person who has received an award from an institution which has been accredited by CAAM-HP and who later seeks to be registered under section 13 of the Medical Practitioners Act, will be in a position to do so upon passage of this bill.

Hon. Molwyn Joseph
Minister of Health, Wellness
and the Environment.