

VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK AND ONLINE SEARCH CRITERIA

POLICY NUMBER: CR-016-02

COMMITTEE: Credentials

DATE APPROVED: August 22, 2023

DATE(S) REVIEWED (REVISED):

DATE TO BE REVIEWED: August 22, 2026

ISSUING AUTHORITY: NSCMIRTP Board

DISTRIBUTION: NSCMIRTP New Registrants

APPROVAL: 

POLICY


1. The Nova Scotia College of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals (NSCMIRTP) requires all applicants requesting initial registration or reinstatement to undergo a vulnerable sectors check (VSC) and a filtered online search, which will be conducted by the NSCMIRTP.
2. Applicants or registrants, who have worked as an MIRTP outside of Canada within the past two years, must also submit an international criminal records check (CRC) from the last country in which they worked, when they are seeking:
 - a. Initial registration; or
 - b. Reinstatement
3. Exceptions to policy statement #2 apply if: an international applicant applies and the College can verify that another Canadian regulatory body has received a clear criminal record check from the country in which the applicant has most recently worked.

RATIONALE

A CRC/VSC and filtered online search are required to assist the College in its mandate to protect the public interest. The College must assess each applicant for capacity, competence, and character to ensure that all applicants meet the standards expected of the profession. NSCMIRTP staff will screen applicants to determine whether there is any criminal record or publicly available information that calls into question their ability to practise the profession with decency, honesty and integrity, in accordance with the law.

DEFINITIONS

Criminal Record Synopsis is synonymous with a criminal record check. It is a Name-based criminal record check which is done by checking the applicants name against the RCMP's Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system. This check includes a search of the National Repository of Criminal Records, based on an individual's name and date of birth.



Filtered Online Search is a structured, specific set of guidelines outlined in Appendix A used to narrow down the Colleges Internet search of the applicant.

Vulnerable Sector Check is an enhanced criminal record check. Vulnerable sector checks are used to verify if an individual has a record suspension (formerly pardoned) for sex offences. A VSC also includes the components of a CRC.

PROCEDURE

1. Individuals applying for initial registration in Nova Scotia are required to provide a VSC to the College. The VSC must be prepared by an organization approved by the College. An application will not be considered finalized until the College has received the Canadian VSC. The applicant will be responsible for all fees charged to obtain these records.
2. Canadian VSCs and CPIC CRCs are valid for six months from the date on which they are issued. If the applicant has a valid VSC check which is less than six months old at the time of application, this may be submitted to the College.
3. Canadian VSC and international record checks must be requested under the current name and all previous names used by the applicant.
4. A completed VSC and filtered online search does not ensure that registration/licensure will be granted.
5. Positive findings will be considered for further action by the College based on criteria including:
 - a. The date of the conviction;
 - b. The number of convictions;
 - c. The nature and seriousness of the offences;
 - d. The relevance of the details of the offence to practice.
6. If concerns regarding capacity, competence or character arise from the VSC and/or filtered online search, the matter shall be referred for consideration to the Registrar and/or the Credentials Committee. Where the Registrar is not satisfied with the evidence of capacity, competence or character presented by the applicant or acquired in the registration process, the application will be referred to the Credentials Committee for review.

APPENDIX A

Search Number	Search Term(s)	Example
1	Applicant's full name ¹ (phrase) and applicants first and last name (phrase), connected by the Boolean operator OR, followed by the province of practice/residence ² , using the Boolean operator AND	"Jane Middle Doe" OR "Jane Doe" AND Ontario
2	Applicant's full name (phrase) and sonographer, using the truncated version of the root and the Boolean operator AND	"Jane Doe" AND sonograph* (which includes sonographer and sonography)
3	Applicant's full name (phrase) and ultrasound, using the Boolean operator AND	"Jane Doe" AND ultrasound
4	Applicant's full name (phrase) and province of practice/ residence and charge, using the truncated version of the root and the Boolean operator AND	"Jane Doe" AND charge* (which includes charge, charged, and charges)
5	Check public registry of listed regulatory bodies	CMRTO SAMRT NBAMRT ACMDTT OTIMROEPMQ cpsns.ns.ca www.nscn.ca www.nscrt.com www.chiropractors.ns.ca www.nscmlt.org

¹With respect to the applicant's full name, all names must be searched (legal, given, other, etc.).

²If the place of practice and place of residence are different, both variations will be searched to fulfill this requirement. (CMRTO, 2018)



REFERENCES

College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario. (2018). *Report RE: Good Character Searches*.

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. (October 2017). *Criminal Record Screening Policy*.

College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia. (September 2016). *Canadian Vulnerable Sector Checks and International Criminal Record Checks*.