

## Applicant Question and Answers for Cataract Surgery Call for Applications (CFA)

**1. When does the Ministry of Health expect to have the Applications reviewed and the Independent Health Facility (IHF) licences awarded?**

The Application Submission Deadline is February 16, 2021. It is anticipated that new IHFs could be licensed as early as Spring 2021. However, the evaluation of Applications and issuance of licences may occur over a period of time and there is no requirement that all licences be issued on the same date.

**2. The Application Form asks if the Applicant has provided cataract surgery at the Health Facility for at least one year. Must the Applicant be an ophthalmologist?**

The Applicant does not need to be an ophthalmologist. The Applicant could be a corporation that operates a Health Facility that meets the criteria for submitting an Application.

**3. If a clinic is already an accredited Out-of-Hospital Premises, will there still be an inspection by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) for the IHF?**

Per section 3.3 of the Application Guidelines, Applicants must attach the most recent quality assessment/inspection undertaken at the Health Facility by the CPSO as part of the Out-of-Hospital Premises Inspection Program (OHPIP), if applicable.

A recent assessment under the OHPIP at the Health Facility may be accepted by the Director of IHFs as a pre-licensing inspection, depending on the recency and outcome of the OHPIP inspection. A decision regarding the sufficiency of a previous OHPIP inspection for licensing purposes will be made at the discretion of the Director of IHFs on a case by case basis.

If licensed, IHFs are subject to quality assessments under the Independent Health Facility Act (IHFA).

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### **4. If a clinic is not an accredited Out-of-Hospital Premises (OHP), can the clinic still apply for an IHF licence and then be inspected by the CPSO?**

Applicant Health Facilities do not need to be OHPs. Successful Applicants that are not OHPs will be subject to a pre-licensing inspection by the CPSO. OHPs may also be subject to pre-licensing inspection (see above).

### **5. Can I submit one Application for multiple Health Facilities?**

Separate Applications must be submitted for each Health Facility. Each Application will be evaluated separately.

### **6. Can an Applicant apply for more than one IHF license in different LHINs?**

Yes, an Applicant can apply for more than one IHF license in the same or different LHINs. Separate Applications must be submitted for each Health Facility. Each Application will be evaluated separately.

### **7. Is the Call for Applications open to hospitals?**

The Call for Applications is for existing Health Facilities in community-based settings and does not include hospitals.

There are concurrent hospital initiatives being undertaken to address the surgical backlog.

### **8. Will IHF volumes be incremental to hospital volumes or is the intention to transfer case volume from hospitals to IHFs?**

IHF cataract surgery volumes funded in newly licensed IHFs will be incremental, representing net new capacity. Allocations to hospitals will not be impacted by any potential new IHF.

### **9. My Health Facility does not provide cataract surgery, but we have the capacity to. Can I still apply?**

This Call for Applications is only open to Health Facilities that are currently providing cataract surgery and meet the criteria for submitting an Application, including having provided cataract surgery for at least one year.

### **10. What are the requirements regarding hospital privileges for surgeons operating at the IHF?**

IHF must operate under the established Clinical Practice Parameters (CPPs) and licences can be suspended if the CPPs are not followed. CPPs are

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evaluated regularly by the CPSO. The CPPs for cataract surgery require the health facility to be managed under the direction of one or more ophthalmologists who have privileges to perform the same surgery in a general hospital, have admitting privileges or have access to appropriate referral by prior arrangement to a nearby hospital for emergency patients. The Applicant must indicate that they will meet all requirements of the CPPs, and the facility must pass an inspection by the CPSO prior to licensing.

### **11. How will the Applications be scored and how will successful Applicants be determined?**

This Call for Applications is not a procurement process; it is a licensing process undertaken by the Director of IHFs under the IHFA. Applicants should complete the Application Form to provide the information as requested.

The Ministry will evaluate submitted Applications to assess whether Applicants meet licensing requirements and health care services needs. The Director of IHFs has the discretion to accept or reject any proposals for license.

### **12. Will there be another Call for Applications in the future?**

The current Call for Applications is the only one in progress at this time.

### **13. How was the Call for Applications communicated?**

The Ministry has made every effort to circulate information about the Call for Applications. The Ministry shared information about the Call for Applications with relevant stakeholder organizations including the Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Provincial Vision Task Force. Furthermore, news of the process was shared with facilities under the OHP program that are inspected for their OHP ophthalmological services.

All information regarding the Call for Applications is posted on the [IHF web page](#).

### **14. Section 2.3.1 asks for a description of Uninsured Services that are or will be provided at the Health Facility. Does this refer only to cataract-related Uninsured Services, or should all current and proposed Uninsured Services be listed?**

All Uninsured Services that are or would be provided at the Health Facility must be listed in the Application.

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### **15. What date should be entered on the Application Cover Sheet if services could be provided immediately upon licensing, but the licensing date is unknown?**

Applicants may respond “immediately upon licensing” or “within X weeks of licensing”.

### **16. Why does the Application ask for both existing and additional proposed volumes of cataract surgeries?**

This information will be used to assess the Health Facility’s capacity to add net-new volumes of cataract surgeries on an annual basis.

### **17. For the question, has the Applicant, or any officer or director or any person with an interest affecting control of the corporation or administrator ever operated or provided services to or in a licensed IHF or other Health Facility in Ontario or any other jurisdiction. Does “other Health Facility” include hospitals?**

Yes, hospitals are included under “other Health Facility”.

### **18. What will be the licence term for successful Applicants and what will the terms of funding be?**

IHF licences may be issued for a period of up to five years. Terms of funding agreements may be for shorter terms and will be discussed with successful Applicants.

### **19. How should the Health Facility identify the differences between maximum capacity for service delivery and reduced capacity due to COVID-19 related protocols?**

The Applicant should identify what the total capacity for volumes is in section 2.1a of the Application. The Applicant should detail the implications of COVID-19 in section 2.1b of the Application.

### **20. How will the Applications be evaluated?**

All Applications must meet the minimum requirements for the Application to be evaluated. An evaluation team will review the Applications. The decision whether to issue an IHF licence is in the sole discretion of the Director of Independent Health Facilities, in accordance with the IHFA.

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### 21. What is the institution address, telephone number, and email to which the CPSO Certificate of Professional should be issued?

The institution address for the CPSO to issue the CPC is:

Ministry of Health  
Health Services Branch  
Independent Health Facilities Program  
49 Place d'Armes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Kingston, ON K7L 5J3  
Attention: Director, Health Services Branch

The telephone number is: 613-548-6637

The email address is: [IHF.Applications@ontario.ca](mailto:IHF.Applications@ontario.ca)