

\$5,000 annual preceptor stipend

The \$5,000 annual stipend is available to all preceptors (other than those paid through a Clinical/Academic Funding Plan, or C/AFP) who have met the following eligibility criteria:

- physician must be approved by Dalhousie University and the Department of Health and Wellness to precept; and
- between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, physician must have acted as preceptor for Dalhousie University medical students and residents, and/or overseen a practice-ready assessment, for at least five days or 10 half days. *(Note, in subsequent years the threshold increases to a minimum of nine days (or 18 half days) in the year (April 1 to March 31).)*

Payment will be made in the fall for 2023–24.

The deadline to apply for the stipend is at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. Look for an email message from Dr. Gobran dated Aug. 7 with the details and a link to the application.

To reduce administrative burden, it was determined that 330 physicians met the hours threshold for the \$5,000 annual preceptor stipend in 2023–24. As a result, those physicians will receive a note confirming they do not have to apply for the stipend for 2023–24. Because they do not have to apply for the stipend, they will receive payment by early September.

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Q: Why are there now eligibility criteria applied for preceptors to receive the annual payment?

A: When developing the eligibility criteria, we came to understand that there are variations in the annual time physicians spend on precepting, ranging from a few hours to a few weeks per year. Our goal with the criteria is to ensure physicians who spend a significant portion of time throughout the year are rewarded appropriately for their time. [<top>](#)

Q: Why not treat all preceptors the same, no matter how much they've precepted?

A: Variations in annual time spent on precepting ranges from a few hours to several weeks per year. It became clear that eligibility criteria were needed to ensure those who are committed to precepting are rewarded appropriately for their time. [<top>](#)

Q: This is not what I agreed to at ratification. Is this legal?

A: The parties agree eligibility criteria were needed to match implementation to the intent of the investment. Doctors Nova Scotia, the Department of Health and Wellness, Nova Scotia Health and Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine have finalized eligibility criteria for the

payment. The appropriate procedures were followed, and the DNS Board of Directors unanimously approved a contract amendment that ensures fairness for preceptors. [<top>](#)

Q: What is an eligible preceptor?

A: An eligible preceptor is a physician licensed through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia for independent practice and who is approved by Dalhousie University and the Department of Health and Wellness to precept. [<top>](#)

Q: Is there a minimum number of hours to have precepted to be eligible to receive the annual payment?

A: Yes, in 2023–24, the year the contract was ratified, physicians must have precepted five days (10 half days) between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024.

In the current fiscal year and subsequent years, preceptors must have spent a minimum of nine days (or 18 half days) in the year working directly with learners. [<top>](#)

Q: I didn't meet the minimum hours to receive the annual payment, what should I do?

A: Please consider increasing your preceptor hours this year so that you qualify for the annual payment in 2024–25. Preceptors are always needed. The threshold for the 2024–25 fiscal year (and all subsequent years) is nine full days or 18 half days. Contact your department head for more information. [<top>](#)

Q: What constitutes a half day precepting?

A: A half day is 3.5 continuous hours of precepting during a single day. [<top>](#)

Q: How do half days of precepting apply to the practice ready assessment program?

A: A physician may receive credit for more than one half day in a single day. For example, a physician who acts as preceptor and/or oversees a practice-ready assessment for at least seven hours in a day will receive credit for two half days; when spending at least 10 and a

half hours in a day they will receive credit for three half days, and when spending at least 14 hours in a day will receive credit for four half days. [<top>](#)

Q: The contract was ratified part way through the 2023–24 fiscal year. How much will physicians receive for the partial year?

A: Eligible physicians will receive \$5,000 for the 2023–24 fiscal year. [<top>](#)

Q: When will this stipend be paid?

A: The stipend amount will be paid to physicians who meet all eligibility requirements in late fall 2024. A group of 330 physicians were identified to have met the hours threshold and therefore, they do not have to apply for the stipend. They will receive payment sooner, by early September. [<top>](#)

Q: What counts as a learner?

A: For the program’s purposes, eligible learners are Dalhousie University medical students and residents, and physicians participating in the Practice Ready Assessment Program (PRAP). Other learner categories, such as clinical observership, physician assistants or other health-care providers, are not included. [<top>](#)

Q: Are Central Zone physicians eligible to apply for the annual payment?

A: Yes, all physicians who meet the eligibility criteria may apply for the stipend. For physicians who work part-time under a C/AFP arrangement and part-time outside that model, only time spent precepting outside of the C/AFP arrangement is eligible for this stipend. [<top>](#)

Q: I’m a Central Zone C/AFP physician and I do precepting work outside of my C/AFP department, can I apply?

A: Yes, if the precepting work outside the C/AFP department meets the minimum threshold requirements. [<top>](#)

Q: How does a physician confirm five days of precepting if they haven't claimed the \$90 daily stipend, which is only available to fee-for-service physicians?

A: Physicians are required to provide learner name, dates of precepting and level of training (undergraduate, postgraduate, PRAP), through a short, online application process being administered by Dalhousie University. For those who precept for many weeks of the year, please note that you are only required to provide this information in 2023–24 for 10 half days (that is, up to the threshold required for the annual stipend), and not for all your weeks of precepting. [<top>](#)

Q: How will the precepting work be verified?

A: In cases where a physician was eligible to bill the TESP 1 and TESP 2 daily stipend fee codes and submitted claims for five or more days, payment will be automatically processed. For those who were unable to bill the TESP fee codes, Dalhousie University will work with department administrators to verify that the precepting reported matches their records. [<top>](#)

Q: For LFM physicians, has anyone considered valuing the teaching stipend as service encounters to offset the extra time required to do medical education?

A: Impacts on service encounters are being monitored. As further data becomes available, all parties are committed to ensuring physicians who precept are not disadvantaged under the LFM in any way. Further work is being done to assess the impact teaching has on the deliverables required in this payment model. [<top>](#)

Q: What about family physicians in the IWK primary maternity care program – do they qualify for this stipend? What about emergency physicians or hospitalists?

A: Yes, all physicians regardless of payment model (except those paid under a C/AFP) are eligible for this stipend, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. [<top>](#)

Q: What about the 5% premium? Why hasn't that been implemented yet?

A: Implementing this payment has proved to be more difficult than expected. The parties are working on a solution; this payment will be retroactive to Sept. 15, 2023. We'll share more information as soon as it's available. [<top>](#)

Q: How do I become a Dalhousie University faculty member?

A: The process is different from department to department. We suggest you reach out to the educational administrator for your department as a first step. [<top>](#)