

New Brunswick Medical Society

Applications for Section Status

POLICY PURPOSE

This policy establishes a **clear, consistent, and transparent** framework for determining when a physician group may be granted **Section** status within the New Brunswick Medical Society (NBMS).

CATEGORIES OF SECTIONS

NBMS recognizes **two distinct Section types**, each with different purposes and responsibilities.

1. **Community of Interest Sections:** Members that share collective social and clinical interests re: advocacy, policy or knowledge-sharing, but **do not** wish to participate in the NBMS economics processes may apply for *Community of Interest Section* status (ie: retired members, social or health policy interests, etc); or
2. **Economic Sections:** Members that seek formal participation in NBMS economics processes, including NBMS Distribution, fee schedule adjustments, remuneration models and Medicare insured services may apply for *Economic Section* status (ie: Salaried Physicians, Medical and Surgical Specialties, etc).

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

Members may apply for Section status through the NBMS Governance Committee, to the Board of Directors. All applications must meet NBMS Bylaw requirements by representing one of:

- Family Medicine Specialty
- Salaried Physicians
- A **Royal College** recognized specialty, subspecialty, or AFC or;
- A **College of Family Physicians of Canada** – Certificate of Added Competence (CACs).

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Members applying for section status must apply to the NBMS Governance Committee demonstrating they have met the criteria for their desired section category.

Community of Interest Section:

- A **defined shared interest** relevant to NB practice.
- **Member support**, typically: At least **5 NBMS members**, or at least **70% of eligible members**.
- A clear **statement of purpose** and intended activities.
- Confirmation the group is **not seeking economic recognition**.

Expectations: *Community of Interest Sections must maintain a Chair or liaison for communication with NBMS, report to NBMS Board as necessary, and collaborate with all NBMS policies and procedures.*

Economic Section

- Represent a **recognized RCPSC specialty, subspecialty, AFC, or Family Medicine specialty or CAC** with a distinct scope of practice and clinical and economic distinctiveness.
- Show **sufficient membership size or service volume** to justify economic representation.
- Provide a **preliminary needs assessment**, including expected economic or data requirements.
- Nominate a **Section Chair** for Liaising with the NBMS.
- **Economics Committee Review:** All applications for Economic Section status must be sent to the NBMS Economics Committee for review and feedback prior to being submitted to the NBMS Board of Directors.

Expectations: *Economics Sections must maintain a Chair or liaison for communication with NBMS, participate in Economics Committee processes, report to NBMS Board as necessary, and comply with all NBMS policies and procedures.*

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Each application for Section status must include:

- **Statement of Purpose:** identifying the proposed Section status.
- **Membership list:** meeting eligibility thresholds.
- **Rationale:** explaining why Section status is required and assessing potential overlap with existing Sections.
- **Resource needs:** identifying any potential administrative needs of the NBMS.
- **Compliance:** Acknowledgement and compliance with NBMS Bylaws and Policies.
- **Engagement plan:** identify meeting schedule and reporting aligned with NBMS.

NBMS BOARD REVIEW CRITERIA

The NBMS Governance Committee will provide support to the members in preparing necessary materials to submit to the NBMS Board of Directors highlighting: *Alignment with NBMS Mission; Section Representation and Stability; Avoidance of Duplication or Conflict; Administrative and Organizational Sustainability; Governance Readiness; and Economic Relevance.*

Any application for Economic Section Status shall be submitted to the NBMS Economics Committee for feedback and recommendations prior to the Governance Committee submitting to the Board.

REVIEW, RENEWAL AND DISSOLUTION

The NBMS Board may review applications that meet all criteria, and approve, approve with conditions, decline with reasons, or defer pending more information, where necessary. The Board may also conduct periodic reviews of section status, place a Section on probation if criteria are not being met, or dissolve a Section if membership declines, governance fails, or obligations are not fulfilled/consistent with NBMS Bylaws and Policies.

POLICY AUTHORITY

This policy is subordinate to the NBMS Bylaws. In any conflict between this policy and the Bylaws, the Bylaws prevail.

BOARD POLICY: APPLICATIONS FOR SECTION STATUS	
Approved by the Board:	March 27, 2026