

Certification and Licensing During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Frequently asked questions

What is Certification in the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP)?

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) awards the CCFP Special Designation to individuals who have met and continue to meet the CFPC's standards for family medicine training. CFPC members who have completed either approved residency training in family medicine or a combination of approved training and practice experience and the Certification Examination in Family Medicine are eligible. Only active members of the CFPC who fulfill the College's ongoing Mainpro+® requirements for continuing professional development may use the CCFP Special Designation after their names.

Who grants physicians licences to practise?

Medical regulatory authorities (MRAs) in each province and territory, such as a provincial college of physicians and surgeons, have the power to grant licences which are required to practise medicine in their jurisdictions. MRAs' primary mandates are to ensure the safety of the public and provide the means for the medical profession to self-regulate through such actions as setting practice standards and dealing with complaints. Only licensed (or registered) practitioners who meet the local MRA's qualification requirements—which for family physicians often include obtaining the CCFP Special Designation—may practise medicine in a province or territory of Canada. Please note that licensing requirements vary from province to province; please contact your MRA directly for this information.

How can I get a provisional (also call a restricted or temporary) licence to practise without having acquired my CCFP?

The Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) has indicated each provincial MRA requires two things for provisional licensure:

1. Documentation of successful completion of training
2. Proof that you are eligible to sit the Certification Examination in Family Medicine

The CFPC will send proof of eligibility for residency-trained candidates directly to provincial and territorial MRAs. Practice-eligible candidates should request eligibility letters from the CFPC as needed.

To ensure a confirmation of successful completion of training is issued, please get in touch with your program director.

Where do I get information about provisional licensure in my province or territory?

Please contact your MRA directly. Contact information is available at fmrac.ca/members.

What are the requirements regarding MCCQE Part II?

The CFPC currently **does not require you to have passed the MCCQE Part II** to sit the Certification Examination in Family Medicine. If you were supposed to write the MCCQE Part II in April 2020, please contact the Medical Council of Canada to determine when you are to take this examination. As well, we suggest you contact your [MRA](#) to determine whether there will be any impact on the awarding of provisional licensure once you have completed your residency program.

What do I have to do if I had already registered for the spring Certification Examination in Family Medicine?

If you registered for the April exam you will be able to write it in October. There is no need to register again. All information will be transferred to the new date automatically.

What is the new date for the postponed spring exam?

The simulated office oral (SOO) component of the exam has been cancelled for 2020. The short-answer management problem (SAMP) component will be held on October 13, 14, 15, and 16, 2020.

What will happen with my SAMP appointment through Prometric?

All SAMP appointments from April have been cancelled and you will receive an email from the CFPC letting you know when you can go back to the Prometric site to self-schedule your SAMP. You will have the option of scheduling to take your test at either one of the regional Prometric testing centres across Canada, or at your own home, using Prometric's remote proctoring platform.

Will COVID related questions be included in this year's Certification Examination in Family Medicine?

The content for the fall 2020 Certification Examination in Family Medicine was created prior to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that declaration, the medical community continues to learn about COVID, the pandemic, and emergency management. Information changes quickly. We know physicians are working very hard to be as up to date on COVID as possible, but the Committee on Examinations – Family Medicine could not incorporate COVID-specific questions into the 2020 family medicine examination. The science is moving too rapidly, and it would not be fair to candidates. However, the College of Family Physicians does recognize the great personal and group effort physicians have undertaken to make the practice of family medicine safe for themselves, their colleagues and their patients. The College along with the Committee on Examinations – Family Medicine, recognizes the risk medical workers face every day and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

With these considerations, the following COVID-specific answer concepts are NOT answers incorporated into the 2020 exam:

COVID/COVID-19/Coronavirus as a diagnosis or differential diagnosis
Any treatments specific for COVID
Escalated need for personal protection equipment [PPE] secondary to COVID
COVID community pandemic risks and interventions

Will I get a refund if I decide to withdraw and not take the exam in the fall?

The exam fees paid for spring 2020 will carry over to the fall exam. Since the SOOs have been cancelled, we will be adjusting the fee to reflect that only one exam component will be held, and we will refund applicants accordingly. If a candidate decides to withdraw, they will receive a full refund and can reapply for a later exam when the application becomes available.

I am a practice-eligible candidate. Will the Pearls.ce exercises I completed still be valid for the postponed exam?

Yes. There will be no need to redo the Pearls for the postponed exam.

What if I finish my residency program after June?

It is up to your program director to notify the MRA once you have completed your training. Off-cycle residents may still be eligible for the examination as long as they have completed a minimum of 18 months of training, have no more than six months of training to complete at the time of the exam, and have been recommended by their program to write the exam.

Can I change provinces after I graduate?

Please contact the relevant provincial/territorial MRAs directly for all questions about licensure.

Will I still be able to get a Certificate of Added Competence (CAC) if I have completed my training program?

Yes. If you have completed your training and your program has confirmed that you have shown evidence of competence in the domain of practice, you will receive a CAC. The only CAC domain that requires passing an exam is Emergency Medicine.

Will COVID related questions be included in this year's Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine?

The content for the fall 2020 Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine was created prior to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that declaration, the medical community continues to learn about COVID, the pandemic, and emergency management. Information changes quickly. We know physicians are working very hard to be as up to date on COVID as possible, but the Committee on Examinations – Emergency Medicine could not incorporate COVID-specific questions into the 2020 emergency medicine examination. The science is moving too rapidly, and it would not be fair to candidates. However, the College of Family Physicians does recognize the great personal and group effort physicians have undertaken to make the practice of emergency medicine safe for themselves, their colleagues and their patients. The College along with the Committee on Examinations – Emergency Medicine, recognizes the risk medical workers face every day and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

With these considerations, the following COVID-specific answer concepts are NOT answers incorporated into the 2020 exam:

COVID/COVID-19/Coronavirus as a diagnosis or differential diagnosis
Any treatments specific for COVID
Escalated need for personal protection equipment [PPE] secondary to COVID
COVID community pandemic risks and interventions