



March 19, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your patience while we work to reschedule the spring 2020 Certification Examination in Family Medicine due to COVID-19. We understand the magnitude of the decision to postpone it and find an appropriate alternative date. Our priorities remain the health and safety of everyone involved: the exam candidates, the examiners, and those who support the exam administration. We must also maintain the quality and validity of the exam and address many complex logistical requirements. We are collaborating with other health care, academic, medical regulatory, and resident organizations to determine our new schedule as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

We have been assured that medical regulatory authorities across Canada are working to facilitate issuing provisional/restricted licences/registrations to candidates who will not have obtained their Certification in the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP) when they start to practise. To implement this, each medical regulatory authority will require: 1. a statement verifying the resident's completion of training, issued by their university; and 2. a statement that the resident is qualified to write the Certification Examination in Family Medicine. The CFP will generate the documentation the medical regulatory authorities require indicating candidates' eligibility for the examination.

We wish to share our proposed examination schedule, which assumes that health care settings will be stable and travel/group gatherings will once again be permitted.

The **simulated office oral (SOO) component of the exam will be held October 16 to 18, 2020**. Our plan is to hold the October SOOs at the 17 sites we had planned to use in April. Logistics related to holding the postponed spring exam in October, such as examiner recruitment, still need to be confirmed.

A decision regarding the written **short-answer management problem (SAMP)** component of the exam is still under consideration. We currently favour and are actively exploring with our vendor the possibility of holding the SAMP component in October 2020 prior to the SOO portion of the exam, and we will know more about this possibility over the next week. The biggest factor influencing this decision is that our vendor has confirmed that if we secure a June date and that this date ends up not being feasible, it cannot guarantee an October date. We basically need to firm up one final set of days for the SAMPs now.

Given the uncertainty of the current public health situation, the concerns some residents have about expectations regarding their service commitments, the likely need for them to self-isolate for two weeks prior to a June examination date, and the inability at this time to say whether this would be possible, we feel that, on balance, it is better for us to try to secure an October 2020 date now.

We are committed to ensuring our stakeholders know our 2020 examination schedule as far in advance as possible, and certainly no less than four weeks prior to the administration of an exam.

As you see, there are still many details to be confirmed and plans could change depending on public health priorities. We will share additional details with you as they become available. If you have immediate questions, please contact us at ccfpexam@cfpc.ca.

Sincerely,

Francine Lemire, MD CM, CCFP, FCFP, CAE, ICD.D
Executive Director and CEO,
College of Family Physicians of Canada

Nancy Fowler, MD, CCFP, FCFP
Executive Director,
Academic Family Medicine,
College of Family Physicians of Canada