

Dear Lois Champion,

As we are fast approaching the first virtual delivery of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part II on May 18, 2021, we wanted to share some updates and additional details on the exam and the candidate experience.

The MCCQE Part I and the MCCQE Part II serve a well established and vital function in the Canadian medical education system and are the assessment requirements necessary to protect the public prior to being granted independent licensure. The provincial and territorial Medical Regulatory Authorities (MRAs) consider the MCCQE Part II one of the important national standards to issue a license and, in many provinces, it is part of the legislative requirement defining licensure. The MCCQE Part II assesses whether or not an individual has the core knowledge, decision-making capacity, and skill required of all physicians in Canada along with sufficient ability to apply said knowledge and skill. The MCCQE Part II is not interchangeable with certification examinations administered by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) as those assess whether or not a candidate has achieved sufficient knowledge and skill in each of the required competency domains to be qualified to engage in unsupervised clinical practice within a particular specialty area.

The Medical Council of Canada (MCC) will offer the MCCQE Part II over **20 days** in May and June. Building on the lessons learned from the implementation of the remotely proctored MCCQE Part I, and to mitigate against the impact of any connectivity issues, this semi-continuous delivery has been designed to assess smaller groups of candidates each day. Should exam delivery be disrupted, additional capacity is available to allow candidates to retake the exam within the same session.

We will be assessing approximately 2,000 candidates during this session. We anticipate clearing the current backlog of candidates affected by exam cancellations caused by COVID-19, with further exam sessions planned for administration between October 2021 and January 2022. Successful completion of the MCCQE Part II resulting in the award of the designation “Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada” will assist candidates currently practising under a provisional, temporary and restricted licence to progress along their route to licensure and independent practice.

Exam details

Candidates will complete the exam in a single day from a remote location (such as their home or office) using a secure virtual examination delivery platform, SIMULATIONiQ™, provided through a partnership with Education Management Solutions.

Candidates will require a stable internet connection in a private space. The number of stations, the types of stations and the lengths of encounters have not changed.

The exam day will begin with a system and security check upon login, including verification of candidate identity with a valid government-issued ID, and an environment check (the candidate will span their webcam around the room). As a prerequisite, candidates are expected to have performed a detailed system check prior to exam day to ensure adequate connectivity and system compatibility. Following login on exam day, there will be a candidate briefing and an opportunity to ask questions before the exam begins. There are no scheduled breaks apart from an approximately one-hour lunch break (during which candidates may leave and return to the room). Water is allowed throughout the exam. Time is allotted for station retakes in the event of in-exam technical issues.

The MCCQE Part II will continue to make use of Standardized Participants (SPs) and Physician Examiners (PEs) as in previous in-person sessions. In place of physical examinations, candidates will describe to the examiner what maneuvers they would perform and what they are looking for.

The MCC has released three [candidate orientation](#) modules containing detailed information to assist candidate preparation. A comprehensive [candidate information sheet](#) is also available specifying the environmental and technological requirements on exam day. Candidates have been provided with this information and are strongly encouraged to review all elements in detail prior to exam day.

Scoring

The exam is based on the most recent version of the MCC Blueprint, updated in 2018, and the weights for all domains remain the same as previous exam administrations. Total score and subscores will be reported to candidates. A new score scale and a new cut score for determining pass/fail status will be established through a standard-setting exercise with an expert panel of physicians. The virtual administration is considered a valid and complete attempt of the MCCQE Part II. Results will be released for the entire administration window at the same time, expected to be approximately 15 weeks following the close of the May/June 2021 exam window.

For additional information on the MCCQE Part II, please see the [FAQs](#) on our website.

We appreciate your continued interest and engagement as we resume the MCCQE Part II, using a virtual delivery model.

Sincerely,

Medical Council of Canada
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