



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

New examination structure for family medicine

Starting in 2016, the MCCQE Part II and the Certification Examination in Family Medicine will be run as two separate examinations. Below are some key questions and answers about this change:

Why is this change taking place?

In 2013, the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) certification exam was harmonized with the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part II. Upon review, the CFPC has determined that the Certification Examination in Family Medicine, featuring content from both organizations, has not resulted in the anticipated benefits for the Certification decision. For this reason, starting in 2016, the exams will be run separately, as they were before 2013.

MCC respects CFPC's decision in this matter, and both organizations will work together to create a transition that is as seamless as possible for candidates.

How will this change affect candidates?

Candidates will need to register for the certification examination with the CFPC and will need to register separately with the MCC to take the MCCQE Part II.

This change will impact candidates starting with those who will be eligible to take the certification examination in 2016. These candidates will need to take both exams separately, and may choose to take the MCCQE Part II starting in fall 2015.

To be eligible to take the MCCQE Part II, candidates must have passed the MCCQE Part I, have their medical degree (diploma) successfully source verified, and have successfully completed at least 12 months of postgraduate clinical training (or osteopathic postgraduate training). For more information, please visit [MCCQE Part II application and eligibility](#).

I took the “harmonized” exam; will my result still be recognized?

Candidates who take the harmonized examination and receive a pass result from the MCC (and their Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada) do not have to take the MCCQE Part II.

Will the format of the exam change?

The MCCQE Part II includes similar 10-minute OSCE stations as those used in the harmonized examination. The MCCQE Part II also features other OSCE stations of different lengths. Candidates taking the MCCQE Part II should review the information on the [MCCQE Part II format](#) for more information.

The MCCQE Part II is and will continue to be offered over the course of two days.

Candidates seeking more information on the format of the 2016 Certification Examination in Family Medicine should contact the CFPC.

I have failed the harmonized exam; who do I re-apply with?

Candidates who failed the harmonized exam can continue to retake it until fall 2015. Starting in 2016, candidates who have failed the harmonized exam must take the MCCQE Part II and the Certification Examination in Family Medicine separately in order to obtain the LMCC and the CCFP.

Of note – the MCC’s Central Examination Committee (CEC) reviews candidates’ performance on all components of the clinical skills examination and makes an independent pass/fail decision.

Consequently, if a candidate takes the harmonized exam in fall 2015 and does not meet the pass standard for Certification, the CEC would then decide whether to award a pass or fail result. If this candidate is awarded a pass by the CEC, he or she would only need to retake the Certification Examination in Family Medicine.

Should I take the “harmonized” exam now (or in 2015), or wait until 2016 and do them separately?

This is a personal choice that candidates must make and also depends on whether candidates meet both organizations’ eligibility requirements. For more information, please visit [MCCQE Part II application and eligibility](#). For more information on the eligibility requirements for the Certification Examination in Family Medicine, please contact the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

However, it is worth noting that if candidates are eligible to take the “harmonized” examination in 2015, they can take one exam instead of two.

What will the exam cost?

The fees for the harmonized examination were comparable to those that candidates would have had to pay had they taken the examinations (Certification Examination in Family Medicine and MCCQE Part II) separately.

MCC exam fees are set in advance and confirmed at the September Annual Meeting. We will be announcing the 2015 MCCQE Part II fees shortly thereafter. MCC exam fees tend to increase modestly over time, in line with cost of living increases.

Candidates should contact CFPC about upcoming fee announcements for the Certification Examination in Family Medicine.

Which exam(s) will be easier?

It is the same committee of physician content experts that creates the content and cases for the MCCQE Part II and for the OSCE stations currently included in the “harmonized” examination.

The standard against which MCC assesses candidates' performance is the same for both examinations.

Where and when will the exam be offered?

The MCC will update its website as soon as this information is available and confirmed. MCC dates and centres are established based on a number of factors, including projected candidate volumes and capacity at exam centre sites. Dates are also established through consultation with partner organizations including the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Proposed 2015 dates for the MCCQE Part II have been announced, but these dates are subject to change and will be confirmed at a later date. These proposed dates are:

- Spring 2015 – May 2 and 3 with registration expected to open in November 2014
- Fall 2015 – October 24 and 25 with registration expected to open in May 2015

Who do I register with in 2015? In 2016?

Candidates who wish to take to take MCCQE Part II will register with MCC through their physiciansapply.ca account and candidates who wish to take the Certification Examination in Family Medicine will continue to register with the CFPC.

Candidates eligible to take the certification examination as of spring 2016 will need to apply separately with MCC to take the MCCQE Part II. Since MCC requires 12 months of postgraduate training, candidates will be eligible to take the MCCQE Part II before they are eligible to apply for the Certification Examination in Family Medicine.

Where can I get more information?

We invite candidates with additional questions to contact the MCC directly by sending a message through their physiciansapply.ca account, or emailing us at service@mcc.ca.