The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) are working together to develop an enhanced Certification Examination in Family Medicine that will be launched in spring 2013. When meeting all other requirements of both organizations, candidates who pass the enhanced examination will be awarded two credentials: Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP) and the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC).

**What are the additional benefits of the new certification (CCFP) exam?**

1. Reduced testing burden on the examination candidates
   a) Preparation for one exam instead of two
   b) Reduced travel time and expenses for many candidates
2. By sharing resources, the CFPC and the MCC will ensure maximum cost efficiency without compromising reliability or validity

**When will the new exam begin?**

The examination will be offered twice a year, in the spring and fall, starting in the spring of 2013.

**What will be the format of the new exam?**

As in the past, the new Certification exam will be offered each year in the spring and fall. Candidates will be involved in testing over a period of three days.

- Written component: computer-based short-answer management problems (SAMPs), six hours in length (Thursday or Friday)
- Clinical skills component:
  - Eight 10-minute objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) stations (Saturday); these stations are common to MCCQE Part II and Certification exam candidates
  - Four 15-minute simulated office oral exams (SOOs) (Sunday)

**Will there be any changes to the eligibility requirements for the new Certification exam?**

All candidates will be required to meet the eligibility requirements of both the CFPC and the MCC. As a result, there are two changes in the eligibility requirements for the Certification exam for family medicine residents. In order to be eligible to take the enhanced Certification Examination in Family Medicine:

- All family medicine residents must have successfully completed the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part I
- All required medical credentials that were obtained outside of Canada must have been successfully source-verified by the Physician Credentials Registry of Canada (PCRC) at least eight weeks prior to the examination

The complete list of eligibility requirements is available at [www.cfpc.ca/2013_CCFP/](http://www.cfpc.ca/2013_CCFP/).

**If I have already passed the MCCQE Part II, do I have to retake the full enhanced exam to get my CCFP?**

Residency or practice-eligible candidates who passed the MCCQE Part II on or before spring 2011 will have the opportunity to take the traditional certification exam in the spring and fall of 2013 only. After 2013, all candidates seeking Certification in Family Medicine will be required to take the new exam format.

Candidates who entered residency training in the summer of 2011 and did not pass the MCCQE Part II prior to entering training will be required to take the new examination.

**What will the fee be for the new exam?**

In 2013, the exam fee will be $4,600. A tuition tax credit is available to each candidate.

There are several factors that contribute to establishing the exam fee:

- Both organizations agreed that the new fee would not be greater than the two individual 2013 fees for the MCCQE Part II and the traditional Certification examination
- The exam is offered as geographically close to the candidate as possible
• New content is developed on a regular basis to reflect the changing health care needs of Canadians
• Administration of the exam must include and keep up-to-date with technological advances
• Costs associated with delivering the exam across Canada and with recruiting physician examiners and other exam centre staff must be covered
• An increased number of exam instruments is included in the new exam

How and when do I register for the enhanced exam?
Online registration for the fall 2013 Certification exam:
• Family medicine residents: May 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013
• Practice-eligible candidates: closed for fall exam, reopening July 1, 2013 to October 1, 2013 for the spring 2014 exam
You can register and apply for the enhanced exam through the CFPC website: www.cfpc.ca.

How does a candidate prepare for the new Certification Examination in Family Medicine?
Candidates should prepare for the new certification examination exactly the same way they would have gone about preparing for the various components when they were taken previously as two separate examinations, the MCC Qualifying Examination Part II and the Certification examination of the CFPC. The formats of the components have not changed from previous years.
The SAMPs and SOOs are based on the CFPC’s Evaluation Objectives, which guide the College’s Board of Examiners in the choice of criteria for the testing and certification of competence in family medicine, during both in-training evaluation and the Certification Examination in Family Medicine. They serve to ensure that the certification decisions maintain acceptable validity and reliability. To do this, the evaluation objectives have been designed to clearly describe the domain of competence, as well as the skills and behaviours to be tested within each topic and within each dimension of competence. Please refer to Preparing for the Family Medicine Examination section of the CFPC website for examples of both SAMPs and SOOs, as well as for other resources to assist candidates in the preparation for the examination.
The objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) stations are based on the MCC’s Objectives for the Qualifying Examination. The MCC Objectives have been defined in behavioural terms and reflect the MCC’s expectations of competent physicians. Examples of 10-minute OSCE stations as well as reference material and resources are posted on the MCC website. The CFPC will link to these resources from their section on preparing for the examination.

What happens if a candidate fails the enhanced Certification examination?
Candidates must successfully complete both the written and the clinical skills components of the enhanced exam to be awarded their CCFP. If candidates are unsuccessful on both components of the enhanced exam they will be required to repeat the full exam on a subsequent attempt.
If candidates are unsuccessful on one of the two exam components, they may retake that component within one calendar year at approximately 50% of the full fee. If candidates are not successful on the retake of that component, they will be required to repeat the entire examination at full cost.
The opportunity to retake individual components of the exam only applies to repeat attempts to pass the enhanced Certification exam.

If a candidate fails the exam, will the candidate still be awarded the LMCC?
The enhanced Certification examination has both a written and clinical skills component. A candidate must pass both components in order to be granted Certification in Family Medicine.
If a candidate is unsuccessful in meeting the standard for Certification, the MCC’s Central Examination Committee (CEC) will review the candidate’s performance on the clinical skills component and make an independent decision whether or not to award the LMCC. The CEC will determine whether the performance on the clinical skills component meets a pass standard comparable to that of the MCCQE Part II.

Where will the enhanced exam be offered?
The CFPC will do its best to ensure you are assigned to an exam site as close to your residence or residency school as possible. Factors influencing your assigned site include space limitations and examiner availability.
You will be notified of your exam location six weeks prior to the exam date. Please do not make any travel arrangements until you have received this confirmation. For a list of available exam site locations to date, visit www.cfpc.ca/2013_CCFP.

Where can I find more information about the enhanced exam?

CFPC Website: www.cfpc.ca
Email: 2013CCFPexam@cfpc.ca
Phone: 905-629-0900

MCC Website: www.mcc.ca
Email: MCC_Admin@mcc.ca
Phone: 613-520-2240

2013 Certification Examination in Family Medicine – April 2013