2013 Certification Examination in Family Medicine

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).

Benefits of a harmonized examination

- Reduced testing burden on examination candidates
- Family medicine candidates will only need to prepare for one examination instead of two
- Less travel time and related expenses
- The expertise of the two medical organizations will provide enriched exam quality
- By sharing resources, the CFPC and the MCC will ensure maximum cost efficiency without compromising reliability or validity

Examination format

The new Certification Examination in Family Medicine will include the following elements:

- Written component: computer-based, short-answer management problems (SAMPs)
- Enhanced clinical skills component:
  - 8 objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) stations
  - 4 simulated office oral exams (SOOs)

The exam will take place over a period of three days.

The examination process for family medicine residents

The current process:

Family medicine residents usually take the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part II in the fall of their second year of residency, and the Certification Examination in Family Medicine the following spring.
Starting in July 2012:
Second-year family medicine residents will be encouraged to register for the new Certification Examination in Family Medicine. Registration will take place in the fall of 2012 and residents will sit the exam in the spring of their second year. Family medicine residents can forgo taking the fall MCCQE Part II.

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

The LMCC and the NEW route to Certification
- The Certification Examination in Family Medicine will provide family medicine candidates an alternate pathway to complete the MCCQE Part II requirements for the LMCC
- The MCC will still offer the MCCQE Part II in the spring and fall for candidates in other disciplines
- Those residency or practice-eligible candidates who passed the MCCQE Part II on or before spring 2011 will have the opportunity to sit the traditional Certification exam, which will be offered in the spring and fall of 2013
- 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 sit the new enhanced examination

Next steps
The CFPC and MCC are continuing to develop policies to govern the new harmonized examination.
More details will follow throughout 2012.

More information
For further information, please contact the following:

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