



## Information concerning the Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine in 2021

March 2021

Dear colleagues,

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)'s Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine (EM exam) is being delivered differently in 2021 compared with previous years. Please read the following information carefully.

1. Registration for the CFPC's 2021 EM exam **opens April 15th** and **closes June 15th**. Details are available on the CFPC website at <https://www.cfpc.ca/en/education-professional-development/examinations-and-certification/examination-of-added-competence-in-emergency-medic>
2. The 2021 EM exam will have **two components** held on **different weekends** in September 2021. The short-answer management problem (SAMP) component will be held **September 10, 2021**, and the structured oral component will be held **September 18 to 19, 2021**, using a modified virtual delivery style. All candidates must pass both components to be successful in this examination.
3. The written (SAMP) component of the EM exam will be similar operationally to the 2020 exam. It will be delivered on **Friday, September 10th**, by our written-examination vendor, Prometric. Candidates have two options for taking the SAMP component:
  - At Prometric test centres in various cities across Canada
  - On their own laptops or desktop computers using their own Internet connections via Prometric's remote proctoring software application, ProProctor

Approximately six weeks prior to the exam date all registered candidates will be invited to self-schedule a SAMP component appointment from the available locations and times.

4. This year the structured oral component of the examination will be composed of **four 12-minute stations**. Candidates will be assessed by four different examiners on four different topics.
5. The four oral exam stations will be delivered virtually using a **hybrid virtual model** over the weekend of **September 18 to 19, 2021**. **Examiner training will occur on Friday, September 17, 2021**. Despite this exam being virtual, candidates cannot take it from their own homes using their own computers. The CFPC will assign the dates and locations of the oral component to candidates and communicate these details approximately four to six weeks prior to the exam.

The hybrid virtual model we have elected to use means that **both candidates and examiners will need to travel to one of several large urban hotels in select major cities across Canada**. Following

appropriate social distancing and public health rules, each candidate and each examiner will go through an on-site registration process and then be taken to their individual hotel rooms where the exam will take place virtually. The rationale for using this model is:

- Large urban hotels have more stable Wi-Fi than many households, thus lessening the chance of exam interruptions due to poor connectivity.
- We will supply a computer to each candidate and examiner, making computer-related examination disruptions less likely. Candidates and examiners are not permitted to use their own computers for the oral component of the exam.
- Individuals will have their own rooms to limit their exposure to other individuals as part of the exam process.
- Candidates will be assessed virtually by examiners in their individual hotel rooms according to a predetermined schedule that is independent of where they are physically located. However, both examiners and candidates will be able to stay relatively close to home (individuals will be assigned to hotels based on the addresses provided during registration).
- Check-in processes, examination security, and proctoring during the examination will be provided appropriately at each hotel.
- Candidates will not need to stay overnight since they are scheduled for only part of one of the exam days. Candidates are free to leave the exam site once the exam is completed. Examiners will be able to stay for the full length of the examination period should they so choose.

**Please note:** It is extremely important that we have your correct home address on file, as the hotel assigned will be the one closest to your home address.

6. While the CFPC continues to manage and be completely responsible for our EM exam content, exam design, and examiners for the 2021 EM exam oral component, this year we have entered into an agreement to have the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada be our interactive examination delivery vendor. The Royal College works with a company called Fry-IT that uses an oral examination platform called Practique, and it is using this hybrid virtual model of oral exam delivery for its specialty exams.

It is extremely important to all of us at the CFPC that the delivery of the EM exam goes as smoothly as possible. We know that taking important examinations is stressful; having a delivery- or technology-related glitch can increase the overall pressure of the experience.

Regarding the written SAMP component, we have been working closely with our written-component delivery vendor, Prometric, to ensure each person has a positive examination experience. The CFPC has been assured that Prometric has modified or strengthened its technological infrastructure and many of its background processes.

As well, we at the CFPC have learned much about the various technical difficulties that can occur while delivering exams online. As an educational organization, we have used this information to improve our contingency planning and, if needed, enhance how we respond to candidates and examiners in the moment should these challenges occur.

Our EM exam information web page, which you can access at the link above, will be updated regularly. Should you have questions or concerns please contact us at [ccfpexam@cfpc.ca](mailto:ccfpexam@cfpc.ca).

Sincerely,

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