

November 24, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past year the COVID-19 pandemic forced significant changes to the delivery of the Certification Examination in Family Medicine. On behalf of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) we want to thank everyone involved with our examinations for your patience and understanding. We recognize that already difficult situations are made more stressful when exam pressure is combined with pandemic uncertainty.

We believe the continuing COVID-19 conditions require that we plan now for the 2021 exam process. Our priorities continue to be ensuring everyone's safety, fairness to candidates, validity of the examination instrument, and feasibility of administration. We hope by announcing details now for the year ahead it will provide candidates with sufficient advance notice for greater certainty about, and confidence in, the required exam delivery changes, and reduce anxiety.

Please note the following decisions regarding the Certification Examination in Family Medicine for the year 2021: that the Simulated Office Oral (SOO) component of both the 2021 spring and fall certification exams is cancelled for all other than those impacted by the requirement outlined below.

- For candidates **writing the Certification exam in Family Medicine for the first time in 2021**, the Simulated Office Oral (SOO) component is cancelled and certification decisions will be based on successfully passing the Short Answer Management Problem (SAMP) component only. (This is the same as 2020.)
- For candidates who **currently have a Fail-standing from a previous SAMP component**, or who receive a Fail-standing from the October 2020 administration when the results are released in December 2020, the CFPC will only require the SAMP component of the exam to be re-taken in 2021, and if successful then certification will be awarded. This is updated information from what was previously communicated.
- For those who **currently have a Fail-standing on the SOO component** of the exam and need to repeat it to achieve certification, we will be offering a special virtual administration of the SOO component in the spring of 2021. We will share further details shortly regarding this special administration that only applies to this select group.

Our ongoing commitment is to provide a quality certification exam that is relevant for all candidates. With this in mind, while the SOO component is on hold (except for those who need to repeat it), we will start the work of updating and renewing the performance aspect of our examination. Our goal is to complete a comprehensive assessment-review and examination-blueprinting exercise that will then guide us to: renew and refresh how we assess the patient-centered clinical method, consider

what new competencies should be included for testing, ensure our future exam delivery is pandemic-proof in format, and reduce our overall carbon footprint.

Further details on all the changes taking place to the certification exam will be shared in the new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Kvern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent upward stroke on the "K".

Brent Kvern, MD, CCFP, FCFP  
Director, Examinations and Certification

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dominique Pilon". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "D".

Dominique Pilon, MD, CCFP, FCFP  
Chair, Board of Examinations and Certification