

An open letter

To members considering the Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine

April 2021

Dear colleagues,

We wish to provide the rationale for the April 2021 revisions to the practice eligibility (PE) criteria now in place for the Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine (EM). Some members were concerned about the 2020 PE EM criteria changes. As a member-based organization, the CFPC takes feedback it receives seriously while committing to upholding the highest standards of competence for our profession. Ongoing improvements to the examination and certification process are key to this.

The PE criteria for this examination make it clear that a qualifying applicant's scope of work **must contain advanced clinical practice in emergency care**. The criteria are meant to include rural family physicians working in emergency departments and family physicians providing high acuity care in urgent care centres.

In response to feedback provided from individuals from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, the CFPC's First Five Years in Family Practice Committee, and the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians a working group was created to consider PE criteria. The working group met twice in early 2021 and developed consensus statements. The Board of Examinations and Certification (BEC) used these consensus statements to ensure that concerns raised related to the examination criteria were addressed.

The BEC feels that the new criteria, included below, are the best approach for all practising members wishing to qualify to sit the EM exam. In addition to the revised criteria, a Peer Review Committee has been created. When necessary its members will assist with reviewing individual applications and making recommendations to the Director, Examinations and Certification, regarding exam eligibility using the criteria provided.

We take this opportunity to thank those who provided helpful input for this process. Best of luck to those of you considering obtaining the CCFP (EM) credential.



Sincerely,

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Director, Certification and Examinations
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The 2021 Practice Eligibility Criteria for the Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine (EM)

All practice-eligible candidates must hold Certification in the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP) and remain a member in good standing with the CFPC.

The candidate must be engaged in emergency practice in Canada at a rate of 400 hours per year for the four-year period immediately prior to the date of application. For purposes of exam eligibility, emergency practice is defined as responsibility in a busy clinical setting attending to acutely ill patients requiring emergent or urgent care. The candidate must have experience with and provide evidence of:

- Providing care to all manner of emergencies, including those impacting children and adults
- Receiving pre-hospital ambulances from the community
- Working in a clinical setting that has an affiliation or admitting relationship with an in-patient facility
- Treating patients with conditions requiring sedation, central venous lines, casting, and endotracheal intubation

Candidates must have competencies in procedural skills related to emergency medicine, including cardiac and trauma life support, and have this documented by the director of their hospital emergency department or their medical staff superior.

The Board of Examinations and Certification (BEC) may provide exceptions to individual candidates who merit special consideration to sit an examination related to life circumstances impacting their ability to obtain 400 hours per year for four years immediately prior to the date of application. For example, an individual who takes a year-long parental leave from practice may have 400 hours per year in four of the last five years and be considered acceptable). Those



wishing to apply for special consideration should do so through ccfpexam@cfpc.ca. Applications must include a detailed explanation, evidence supporting why special consideration is warranted, and how the individual candidate has obtained and maintained the necessary skills to care for emergent and urgent acutely ill patients. All decisions regarding requests for special consideration are final.

Note: Candidates who obtain certification from the CFPC through recognized family medicine training and certification outside Canada must practise the most recent two years of emergency medicine in Canada. They may have obtained the remainder of their four-year practice requirement in the jurisdiction in which they have recognized certification, (i.e., Australia, Ireland, the United Kingdom, or the United States).