The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) conducts the Certification Examination in Family Medicine (Short Answer Management Problems (SAMPs) and Simulated Office Orals (SOOs) components) in the spring and fall in English and French.

Certification Examination in Family Medicine
Fall 2022 Examination Administration Report

The College of Family Physicians of Canada™ (CFPC) conducts the Certification Examination in Family Medicine [Short Answer Management Problems (SAMPs) and Simulated Office Orals (SOOs) components] in the spring and fall in English and French.

372
Total number of candidates

81% English
19% French

55% Practice-eligible
45% Residency-eligible

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242
Candidates for the SAMP and the virtual SOO exam (full exam)

55% Practice-eligible
45% Residency-eligible

75
Candidates for the SAMP only (Repeater)

25% Practice-eligible
75% Residency-eligible

55
Candidates for the virtual SOO exam only (Repeater)

20% Practice-eligible
80% Residency-eligible

5
Candidates sat the SAMP only (Repeaters)

20% Practice-eligible
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Eligibility route

Exam development and quality improvement (QI)

5
SOO English and French cases

5
500 writers (authors and reviewers)

4
500 committee meetings

11
SAMP writers (authors and reviewers)

40
Cases

150
Questions

284
Answers

The virtual SOO explained

SOO flow: In their exam the candidate assumes the role of the family doctor caring for a patient in their office setting. The examiner, a certified family physician, plays the role of the patient and marks the candidate’s performance. During their exam the candidate encounters five different “patients” in a row (= 5 SOO cases).

Oral exam administration details

6 examination starts for 35 candidates each day

2 Chief Examiners
15 SOO Leads
13 Assistant SOO Leads
70 SOO Examiners

297
Total candidates

1,485
Scheduled candidates/examiner encounters

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Certification and Examinations - Certification et Examens

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Certification and Examinations - Certification et Examens
The written component of the examination, the computer-based (SAMPs), took place October 12th and 13th.

The CFPC is dedicated to working with committees, schools, and resident groups to address unique challenges related to exams.

On-site Staff
- Exam day command centre
- Exam delivery coordinator
- Exam delivery assistant
- Communications coordinator

Off-site Staff
- Communications coordinator
- Communications lead
- Exam delivery assistant
- Exam delivery coordinator

Key functions
- Exam delivery coordinator
- Exam delivery assistant
- Communications coordinator
- Communications lead

Outcomes
- 99.7% of examinees had no issues.
- 4% of examinees needed test accommodations.
- 84% of examinees took the exam in English.
- 16% of examinees took the exam in French.

Written exam administration details
- The written component of the examination was computer-based (SAMPs).
- It was four-and-a-half hours in length with a 15-minute mandatory orientation tutorial and a 15-minute optional break.
- The exam day schedule included various timing and logistics.

Oral exam administration details (cont’d)
- Technical support was provided for candidates and examiners.
- Exam dashboard monitoring and incident management were key functions.
- Exam day command centre was formed to ensure secure, effective, and seamless candidate and examiner support.

Exam day command centre
- To ensure secure, effective, and seamless candidate and examiner support, a fully staffed, well-trained, in-person command centre was formed.

Candidate readiness
- Candidate technical user guide
- Q&A session
- Sample video of a virtual SOO encounter

Examiner readiness
- Examiner technical user guide
- Q&A session
- Sample video of a virtual SOO encounter

Technical
- Platform orientation including hands-on experience in the demo environment
- Marketing standardized session; virtual calibration session using mock candidates
- SLOD (Lead and Assistant SLOD) training

Delivery
- Incident management guide
- Examiner training on performance assessment of patient-centred approach, identifying a range of judgment biases, and managing the impact of bias in assessment

Time and cost savings
- Immediate quality checks
- Time and cost savings

Test accommodations. The CFPC made every effort to accommodate candidates’ needs requiring special consideration.

Capturing of examiner marking, also, more qualitative written comments about candidate performance than ever before.

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