

Introduction

Each candidate will complete five separate virtual simulated office orals. Each of these virtual oral examinations is 15 minutes in length and involves an interview with a simulated patient. In the virtual simulated office orals, the patient will be role-played by a family physician. This individual will also be responsible for scoring the candidate.

In these interviews, the simulated patients/examiners have been programmed to play the part of a patient. The candidate will not perform a virtual physical examination but will be required to discuss the problem with the patient and bring the interview to a satisfactory conclusion within the defined time frame. The candidate is expected to define and manage the problems presented by the patient. There is an emphasis in the scoring to understand the patient's perspective of their problems and to arrive at a plan of management, which is satisfactory for both parties. This is to be done in the context of the entire encounter utilizing appropriate interview techniques. The best advice is to try to behave as you would if you were seeing a patient in your own office. The patient/examiner will not try to mislead you.

The preparation for this examination takes place daily in your private office or family practice unit. Practice eligible candidates are encouraged to take advantage of workshops available either through a residency program in their area or through their local College chapter.

For information regarding the virtual oral examination platform and procedures, please refer to "Virtual Simulated Office Oral Candidate Training Resources" and "Virtual Simulated Office Oral Examinations FAQs".

During the examination, be aware of your own time by monitoring the countdown clock. You are responsible for managing your own time during the interview. At 15 minutes, the examiner will signal the end of the examination. You are expected to stop immediately and wait while the 12-minute marking time runs its course. You will be automatically moved to the next station. In the event you finish your interview before the 15 minutes have elapsed, wait for the marking time to start.

You are encouraged to make notes using the software's digital notepad to assist you with your summation, even if they comprise no more than a listing of the problems that you identify during the interview. This will prevent you from forgetting to deal with any problems that you have identified during the interview.

Please be aware that your virtual Simulated Office Oral examination will be recorded to validate the performance of the examiner and not the candidate. Examination material, including video recordings may be accessed, when necessary, in the event of an appeal. Recordings of all virtual Simulated Office Orals examinations are the property of the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Lastly, do not be discouraged if you feel you have done poorly in any one or more of the orals. Always keep in mind that the overall certification examination process comprises many different instruments and it is quite possible to be successful on the examination despite a poor performance on one or more of the oral examinations.