



*La version française suit.*

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), I am pleased to provide you with an interim update regarding the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part II.

Beginning in 2021, the MCCQE Part II will be offered more frequently and move to an online format, reducing the need for candidate travel and mitigating the risk of cancellation. This format will allow the MCC to more expediently offer the MCCQE Part II to those candidates affected by the postponements earlier this year.

We are currently in the process of selecting our preferred supplier, which we will announce in our next update, early in the new year.

Beyond offering a delivery model that addresses COVID-19-related challenges, we believe the shift to virtual will bring long-term opportunities to prevent future disruptions in the medical licensing process, while continuing to deliver psychometrically defensible assessments. Pending the success of this initial session, the virtual format will also allow for greater accessibility and flexibility for international medical graduates, who will be able to challenge assessments with the same high privacy and quality control standards without travelling to Canada.

For exam administrations in 2021, priority will be given to those who were unable to write their MCCQE Part II due to the postponed May and October 2020 sessions. Only when the delayed candidates have been processed will new registrations be accepted.

The MCC is grateful to several partners who have successfully implemented virtual delivery of Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and have shared their lessons learned. We also want to recognize the efforts of the Medical Regulatory Authorities (MRAs) in granting the affected candidates provisional, temporary and restricted licences and agreeing, in most cases, to extend them until candidates can take their MCCQE Part II.

In addition to the shift to a virtual MCCQE Part II in 2021, the MCC has initiated a Task Force on Assessment Innovation comprised of individuals from within the MCC as well as experts from partner and stakeholder organizations. The Task Force's mandate will be to consider future assessment needs, with a focus on updating the examination content to address current issues, including virtual care, anti-racism and equity, as well as diversity and inclusion. You can read more about the Task Force's mandate in this [news post](#).

We invite you to consult this [FAQ document](#) which addresses several questions we have received from stakeholders and candidates on the MCCQE Part II. Please feel free to share this update with your team members.

Never has the importance of Canada's frontline healthcare workers been more apparent than during this pandemic. As such, we want to make sure we have the right plan in place, and we remain committed to ensuring physicians can complete the assessments they require to obtain their license.

We wish you and your loved ones a safe holiday season and thank you for your continued collaboration and your passion for medical education.

Sincerely,



**Maureen Topps**, MB ChB, FCFP, MBA, FRCPC (Hon)  
Executive Director and CEO  
Medical Council of Canada

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