



Candidate Guidelines

Therapeutics Decision Making Examination

What is the Therapeutics Decision Making (TDM) Examination?

The term *Therapeutics* is defined as the application of knowledge in the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of medical conditions. The Therapeutics Decision Making (TDM) Examination aims to assess the competence of candidates at the level required of a family physician practicing independently and safely in Canada. It consists of patient-based scenarios representing common or important clinical presentations and problems that family physicians practicing in Canada should be able to competently manage in the following dimensions of medical care: health promotion and illness prevention, acute illness, chronic illness, and safety and adverse effects.

The examination is comprised of 40 cases with approximately 100 short-answer write-in questions. Candidates are allowed up to three hours to complete the examination. The content is developed by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) and the examination is administered by the Practice-Ready Assessment (PRA) programs for use in the selection of candidates into PRA programs.

How long is a TDM exam pass result valid and how many times can I take the TDM examination?

Results are valid across jurisdictional PRA programs that require the TDM examination. Candidates are required to declare previous TDM examination attempts.

A pass result will be valid for a period of two years. After the two-year period, you will need to retake the examination should you wish to be considered once more for a practice-ready assessment. You are allowed a maximum of two pass results per lifetime. If you obtain a pass result, you will not be allowed to retake the examination in an attempt to get a higher score within the two-year period.

If you obtain a fail result, you may attempt the examination once more within the two-year period but no earlier than seven months from your previous attempt.

No scores will be reported to you; only the pass/fail result will be communicated through the PRA programs. Only your most recent result will be valid regardless of previous pass/fail status.

The pass score for this exam is 62 and it was established through a rigorous standard-setting exercise by a panel of physician subject matter experts from across the country.

Results are released to the PRA Programs within 4 weeks of the examination date.

For more information, contact the PRA program to which you are applying. For a list of PRA programs, please visit the MCC's [website](#).

How do I request a score recheck ?

You may request to have your exam score rechecked only if you failed the TDM exam. If you received a pass result, you are not eligible for the score recheck service. Rechecking your examination is unlikely to change your final TDM exam result because your results are verified at least twice before they are sent to your PRA Program.

A score recheck includes:

- Verifying the electronic *marking data file* and confirming it is for the right candidate
- Checking the *marking data file* to confirm it is complete and that there are no errors in data capturing
- Recalculating and verifying the examination score
- Verifying the results against the results obtained through established scoring procedure
- Checking the results against those contained in the excel file provided to PRA Programs
- Informing PRA programs of the outcome

A score recheck does not include a re-evaluation of your performance.

If you still wish to have your TDM exam score rechecked, you will need to follow the steps below **within 15 calendar days** from the date you received your result from the PRA program:

1. Send a email to your PRA program using **TDM Exam Score Recheck** as the subject line and indicate that you understand that there is a score recheck fee of \$240* plus applicable taxes (2019). (*Fee subject to approval)
2. Once the email is received, your PRA program will communicate with you regarding further steps.

NOTE:

- Candidates will not be granted requests to view/review their examination.
- Candidates cannot appeal based on examination content. Appeals will be handled through the PRA program responsible for administering the examination regardless of the jurisdiction where the examination took place.