

## **CPSA Statement: MCQEII update for postgraduate trainees**

**Date: Dec 8, 2020**

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For postgraduate trainees, the cancellation of the October 2020 and February 2021 Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part II (MCCQEII) has added to an already stressful time. After so many years of working towards a goal, this sudden uncertainty of what the future holds for licensing exams and the eventual ability for you to be licensed to practise medicine is daunting. CPSA recognizes this, and we are working to find a solution that addresses your concerns.

The MCCQEII evaluates important physician competencies, such as demonstration of clinical skills, development of investigational and therapeutic plans, professionalism, ethical conduct and communication skills. These are key physician competencies regardless of practice discipline.

CPSA is working with the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) and the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) offices to determine the best route forward. While the plan is still in development, we can share some updates.

### **Certification exams and the CPSA provisional register**

The PGME offices have advised that the MCCQEII cancellation will not impact postgraduate training or trainees' ability to complete their certification exams. The Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC) is a licensing requirement and CPSA has options through the provisional register.

Physicians who were unable to complete their certifying exams (through the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) in the spring of 2020 and registered on the provisional register, have until Dec 31, 2021 to complete their certifying exams. If they do not, they must go through the usual process for the provisional register, which includes AHS sponsorship and a practice readiness assessment. Physicians who fail their certifying exams must also go through the usual provisional register process. Physicians who are on the provisional register should review their Registration Understanding and Acknowledgement (RUA) for details.

In most situations, physicians who have not been able to complete the MCCQEII will have a route to registration on the provisional register. We will share more details in early 2021.

### **Physician extenders**

Physicians who are interested in being physician extenders are not required to have the LMCC at this time—we will accept the MCCQEII and the support of their program director

after they have completed a minimum of 18 months of postgraduate training. This is a temporary waiving of the LMCC requirement to be a physician extender.

**MCCQEII format change**

The MCC is in the process of changing the MCCQEII to a virtual format, which will be available in 2021 (the date has not yet been set). CPSA continues to work with the MCC and FMRAC, and will provide additional updates in the new year.