

Pandemic-Related Exceptions to the Requirement for the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part II

SECTION	Registration		
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION	Medical Practitioners Regulations – Section 5 and Section 19, 3(a)(ii) As per Section 5 of the Medical Practitioners Regulations, the Registrar and the Registration Committee may waive any of the criteria for the registration or licensing or renewal of a licence set out in the regulations for either a requirement by law, or if it is consistent with the objects and purpose of the College.		
APPLICABLE POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptable Alternatives to the LMCC - Clinical Assistant Licence - Postgraduate Practising Licence (External Moonlighting) - Postgraduate Practising Licence – Internal Moonlighting - Pathway to Licensure for International Medical Graduates via a Practice Ready Assessment: Family Medicine - Pathway to Licensure for International Medical Graduates via a Practice Ready Assessment: Specialists and SEAP Status Affiliates (with a primary specialty of Internal Medicine) 		
APPROVED BY	APPROVAL DATE	REVIEWER	REVIEW DATE
Registration Policy Committee Executive Committee	April 15, 2021 April 26, 2021	Deputy Registrar	April 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to lay out the temporary exceptions to the licensure requirement for the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part II for physicians affected by the pandemic-related postponements of the MCCQE Part II in May 2020, October 2020 and February 2021. The initial revised policy was approved on February 19, 2021. This is an amended policy to include the May 2021 sitting of the MCCQE Part II.

Background

The MCCQE Part II is the second of two exams that lead to the LMCC designation (Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada).

In Nova Scotia, the requirement for the LMCC for a Full licence is set out in Section 19, 3(a)(ii) of the Medical Practitioners Regulations. The requirement for the MCCQE Part II for other licence types is set by College policy.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 led to the postponement of three sittings of the MCCQE Part II – specifically, May 2020, October 2020 and February 2021. This has created a significant backlog of candidates that will continue to increase. As a result, several physicians are unable to meet the licensing requirement of obtaining the LMCC for Full licensure.

This policy is in response to an exceptional circumstance, namely the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this policy is applicable on a temporary basis for a limited period of time. This policy will be reviewed again in April 2022 to determine if any further action is required.

Policy

The College will allow the following exceptions to the requirement for MCCQE Part II for applicants for licensure who have not previously failed the MCCQE Part II and who were affected by the postponements of the May 2020, October 2020 and February 2020 sitting(s) of the MCCQE Part II and/or who chose to defer the May 2021 sitting for the MCCQE Part II:

1. Recent graduates of Canadian postgraduate training programs applying for a Full or Temporary licence
 - 1.1. The Registrar will accept certification from the relevant certifying College (CFPC¹ or RCPSC²) as an acceptable alternative to the LMCC for applicants for independent practice who were:
 - 1.1.1. eligible to challenge the MCCQE Part II for the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021 or the May 2021 sitting(s) **AND** who were
 - 1.1.2. within their first 24 months of their postgraduate training program at the time of the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021, or the May 2021 sittings.
 - 1.2. The Registrar *may* consider certification from the respective certifying College (CFPC¹ or RCPSC²) as an acceptable alternative to the LMCC *at the request of applicants* for independent practice who were:
 - 1.2.1 eligible to challenge the MCCQE Part II for either the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021, or the May 2021 sitting(s) **AND** who were

¹College of Family Physicians of Canada;

²Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

- 1.2.2 more than 24 months into their postgraduate training program at the time of the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021, or the May 2021 sittings.

Note that eligibility for the acceptable alternative for physicians who meet these criteria is at the discretion of the Registrar and that the applicant may be asked to provide proof of registration for the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021, or their eligibility for the May 2021 sittings(s).

2. Physicians currently holding a Defined licence

The Registrar will accept two years of satisfactory supervised practice in Nova Scotia from May 2020 onward as an acceptable alternative to the LMCC for Defined licensees and who were:

- 2.1 eligible to challenge the MCCQE Part II for the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021 or the May 2021 sitting(s) **AND** who
- 2.2 meet all other criteria for Full or Restricted licensure.

3. Postgraduate trainees in a Canadian postgraduate training program

The Registrar will waive the requirement for the LMCC for applicants for a Postgraduate Practising (Internal or External Moonlighting) Licence who were eligible to challenge the MCCQE Part II for the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021, or the May 2021 sitting(s).

4. Practice Ready Assessment candidates or Clinical Assistants

The licensure requirement for the MCCQE Part II will be at the discretion of the Registrar for applicants for a Practice Ready Assessment or Clinical Assistant licence who were eligible to challenge the MCCQE Part II for the May 2020, October 2020, February 2021, or the May 2021 sitting(s).