



Update on spring 2016 MCCQE Part II PGY-1 selection process and application for the fall 2016 MCCQE Part II

The following message is being sent to PGME Deans, PGME offices, MCC faculty Members of Council and resident associations.

The Medical Council of Canada (MCC) is pleased to share this update about the selection process that applied to PGY-1 candidates for the spring 2016 MCCQE Part II, and the upcoming application process for all candidates for the fall 2016 MCCQE Part II.

Spring 2016 MCCQE Part II – PGY-1 application

As you might recall, in September 2015 the MCC approved a by-law change enabling PGY-1 candidates completing their first year of residency by June 30 or December 31 to challenge the MCCQE Part II in the spring or fall (respectively).

During the general registration period that followed, just under 450 PGY-1 candidates expressed an interest in taking the spring 2016 MCCQE Part II and added their names to the session's pre-application list. Using this list, the MCC randomly selected candidates to sit the spring exam according to the number of spots available for PGY-1 candidates. Selected candidates were notified through their physiciansapply.ca account, and invited to apply to the exam.

During the PGY-1 application period, which closed on January 26, 2016, 122 available spots were allotted to the PGY-1 candidates who had been randomly selected from the individuals on the pre-application list.

PGY-1 candidates who pass the spring exam can be awarded their Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC) only after completion of 12 months of postgraduate training. The MCC will confirm this completion directly with Canadian PGME offices in early July for Canadian trainees.

Fall 2016 MCCQE Part II application process

The MCC is still facing limited capacity for the upcoming fall 2016 session of the MCCQE Part II. To address this situation, we have been taking a number of steps, including expanding our capacity wherever possible across the two yearly sessions and providing space in the spring session for PGY-1 candidates to relieve some capacity in the fall.

Unfortunately, even with these changes, we will not be able to provide an exam "spot" for all candidates seeking to take the MCCQE Part II in the fall.

To address this problem last fall, we implemented capacity limits. Once registration opened, candidates were able to apply for the exam until the capacity limit for their group was reached. For one group, the limit was reached within nine hours of registration opening.

Candidates and stakeholders told us that the first-come, first-serve approach was challenging for many. Candidates who were unavailable and could not apply at the start of the registration period felt disadvantaged.

To enhance access and fairness, even though we need to implement capacity limits again for this upcoming exam session, the application process will be different than in the past. We will be opening a “pre-application period” in late April. Candidates will have a few weeks to indicate their interest in applying to the exam. Those seeking an examination spot can add their name to a pre-application list through their physiciansapply.ca account.

Following the close of the pre-application period in mid-May, the MCC will proceed with a random selection of candidates from the pre-application list. The number of selected candidates will be based on available exam capacity, and distributed across all capacity groups.

Selected candidates will be sent a message through their physiciansapply.ca account inviting them to submit an application for the fall exam. At the point of submitting their application, candidates will be asked to pay the exam fees.

More than one application round will take place, meaning that candidates who add their names to the pre-application list may receive an invitation to apply at any time throughout the application period.

We will notify all other candidates who were on the pre-application list but were not selected once the application period has closed.

A similar – but shorter – application process will be in place for candidates receiving their spring MCCQE Part I or MCCQE Part II results in June 2016.

To ensure as much access as possible for candidates who are further along in their training, all available exam capacity will be allocated to candidates in their second year of residency or above. Candidates requiring special consideration (e.g. who are at the end of their training or who need access to the exam for licensure) should contact the MCC as soon as possible.

We hope that this new application process will help improve candidate access the exam.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to send us an email at communications@mcc.ca. We will be updating our website in the next few weeks with information on the new application process. In the meantime, please encourage your candidates to sign up to our distribution list for the fall 2016 MCCQE Part II at the bottom of the following page: mcc.ca/examinations/mccqe-part-ii/. We will be providing information updates to those on this list closer to the launch of the pre-application period.

Sincerely,
Medical Council of Canada