

Subject: Therapeutics Decision Making (TDM) Exam- Process Change

To: Alberta Health (AH), Alberta Health Services (AHS), Covenant Health, CPSA, University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine, Alberta International Medical Graduate (AIMG) Program, Alberta International Medical Graduates Association (AIMGA), Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RHPAP), Medical Council of Canada (MCC), IMG Assessment Alliance and National Assessment Collaboration Practice-Ready Assessment (NAC PRA) Working Group

From: Susan Ulan, Deputy Registrar

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Overview

The Therapeutics Decision Making (TDM) exam is a pan-Canadian initiative developed by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) to standardize the selection process into Practice Ready Assessment (PRA) programs. The TDM exam was added as a requirement for internationally trained medical graduates (IMGs) interested in family medicine/general practice who don't have their Canadian credentials in order to determine eligibility for a practice readiness assessment. It was added as an eligibility requirement for registration in Alberta on March 1, 2018.

The CPSA currently requires that physicians pass the TDM before they submit a review of qualifications and obtain their letter of eligibility for registration in Alberta on the Provisional Register. This can potentially create a delay in recruiting physicians to Alberta and so we are making changes to streamline the process. Effective October 1, 2020, physicians will be able to submit a review of qualifications prior to obtaining the TDM. The requirement to pass the TDM **and** to obtain AHS sponsorship for a clinical position will be outlined in the letter of eligibility and once both are obtained, CPSA will arrange the PRA for the candidate.

Resources

- <http://www.cpsa.ca/eligibility/>
- <http://www.cpsa.ca/registration/apply-for-independent-practice/therapeutics-decision-making-exam/>

Purpose

This memo is to advise of a process change involving where the TDM eligibility requirement falls in the CPSA registration process.

Currently the applicant must obtain a TDM pass result **prior** to submitting a Review of Qualifications Form through physiciansapply.ca for licensure in Alberta.

Process Change

- Have applicants write the TDM exam **after** submitting a Review of Qualifications Form and **after** receiving a CPSA Eligibility Letter.
- If the applicant is eligible for registration on the Provisional Register, CPSA will send an Eligibility Letter stating that in order to proceed with registration, the applicant must:
 - **Pass the TDM exam** and
 - **Obtain AHS sponsorship for a clinical position**
- Applicants will have 1 year to obtain the above (currently applicants have 6 months to obtain AHS sponsorship).
- Applicants that obtain AHS sponsorship will be prioritized to write the next available TDM exam.

Reasons for Process Change

- Reduce barriers to recruitment by providing letters of eligibility earlier in the process so that physicians can seek AHS sponsorship in a more timely way.
- Physicians can prepare for the TDM exam and apply for sponsored positions on [DoctorJobsAlberta.com](https://www.doctorjobsalberta.com) at the same time.
- Prioritized TDM Exam seats for AHS sponsored applicants will better support Alberta workforce needs.
- Increased alignment with other NAC PRA program practices.
- There are no fee changes associated with this process change.