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The PCE Written Component

2023 Candidate Information Session

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Session Agenda

- CAPR overview
- PCE Written Component
 - Structure and Format
 - Exam Preparation
 - Exam Administration
 - Scoring
 - After the exam



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Non-profit pan-Canadian agency that provides

- Evaluation services (credentialling and assessment)
- Knowledge brokering
- Policy services

on behalf of our members

[CAPR Publications](#)

Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators



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11 Provincial/Territorial Regulators

- Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Government of Yukon
- College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Physiotherapists of Alberta
- Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists
- College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba
- College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
- Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec
- College of Physiotherapists of New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists
- Prince Edward Island College of Physiotherapists
- Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists



1 Affiliate member (United States – FSBPT)



CAPR does:

- ✓ Administer the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE) on behalf of most provincial/territorial regulators.
- ✓ Coordinate a pan-Canadian network of practicing physiotherapists who develop the questions that appear on the components of the PCE.
- ✓ Build unique exams based on a bank of more than 3000 questions and scenarios, led by CAPR's Physiotherapist Advisor and Lead Psychometrician.
- ✓ Assess the credentials of internationally-educated physiotherapists on behalf of provincial/territorial regulators.
- ✓ Collaborate continually with all 11 physiotherapy regulators across Canada.
- ✓ Facilitate collaboration across the Canadian physiotherapy community, which supports labour mobility and uniform ethical and professional standards.

CAPR doesn't:

- ✗ **Issue, suspend or reinstate licences.**
Provincial/territorial regulators have the sole authority to issue licences.
- ✗ **Set or waive entry-to-practice licensing requirements.**
Licensing standards, such as practical competency exams, are set by provincial/territorial regulators in accordance with legislation governing regulated professions.
- ✗ **Own exam administration sites.**
CAPR contracts the specialized sites where we hold exams and has no authority regarding availability or closures.
- ✗ **Employ standardized patients/clients.**
CAPR contracts professionals who are experienced and trained in health-care simulation.
- ✗ **Have authority over regulators.**
CAPR was created by provincial/territorial regulators to act as a service provider and shared resource.



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CAPR ≠ Regulator

Supporting Provincial Regulators



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Regulators ensure that physiotherapists entering practice in Canada have the **minimum competence level** required for **safe** and **effective** practice.

A pan-Canadian approach to evaluation:

- Ensures **standardization** for all physiotherapists
- Avoids any **bias or perception of bias** between candidates in different parts of Canada, or between candidates trained within and outside Canada
- Facilitates **labour mobility** between jurisdictions

Evaluation Services: Credentialling



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We review the education and qualifications of IEPTs

- Education must **not** be **substantially different** from Canadian education.
- **Language proficiency** and knowledge of the **Canadian health system standards** must be met.

[Becoming Credentialled](#)

credentialling@alliancept.org

Evaluation Services: Assessment



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We administer the Written Component of the PCE for both CEPTs and IEPTs

- Contributes to determining readiness for **safe, effective** and **independent** physiotherapy practice

[CAPR's Innovation Agenda](#)

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Vision

- Every physiotherapist is a **competent** and **ethical** physiotherapist.

Mission

- To **support** the physiotherapy community in **protecting** the public.

The Written Component



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- Tests **knowledge** and **understanding** of the principles and processes of physiotherapy practice.
- Assesses ability to **use** and **integrate** clinical knowledge to solve clinical problems.

The Written Component



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- Four-hour, computer-based, multiple-choice exam
- **200 Questions**
 - **1.2 minutes** to read and answer each question

The Written Component



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- Four-hour, computer-based, multiple-choice exam
- **200 Questions**
 - Each question has a **stem** and **4 options**
(1 correct option, 3 distractors)

The Written Component



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- Four-hour, computer-based, multiple-choice exam
- **200 Questions**
 - ~90% of questions are **vignette-based**
 - ~10% are **stand-alone**

The Written Component



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Vignette

A 22-year-old woman is at an out-patient physiotherapy clinic after developing anterior left knee pain. She states that the pain began gradually about one month ago while training to run a half-marathon. Her training has included running, weightlifting, and swimming. She has not been able to increase her training lately due to increased pain. The physiotherapist suspects patellofemoral pain syndrome.

Stem 1

When taking the client's history, which of the following would the physiotherapist *most* likely expect the client to report?

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| A. | Increased knee pain when ascending stairs, significant knee swelling, and occasional “clicking” in the knee. | Distractor |
| B. | Increased knee pain when ascending stairs, mild knee swelling, and locking of the knee. | Distractor |
| C. | Increased knee pain when descending stairs, mild knee swelling, and occasional “clicking” in the knee. | CORRECT |
| D. | Increased knee pain when descending stairs, significant knee swelling, and locking of the knee. | Distractor |

The Written Component



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Stem

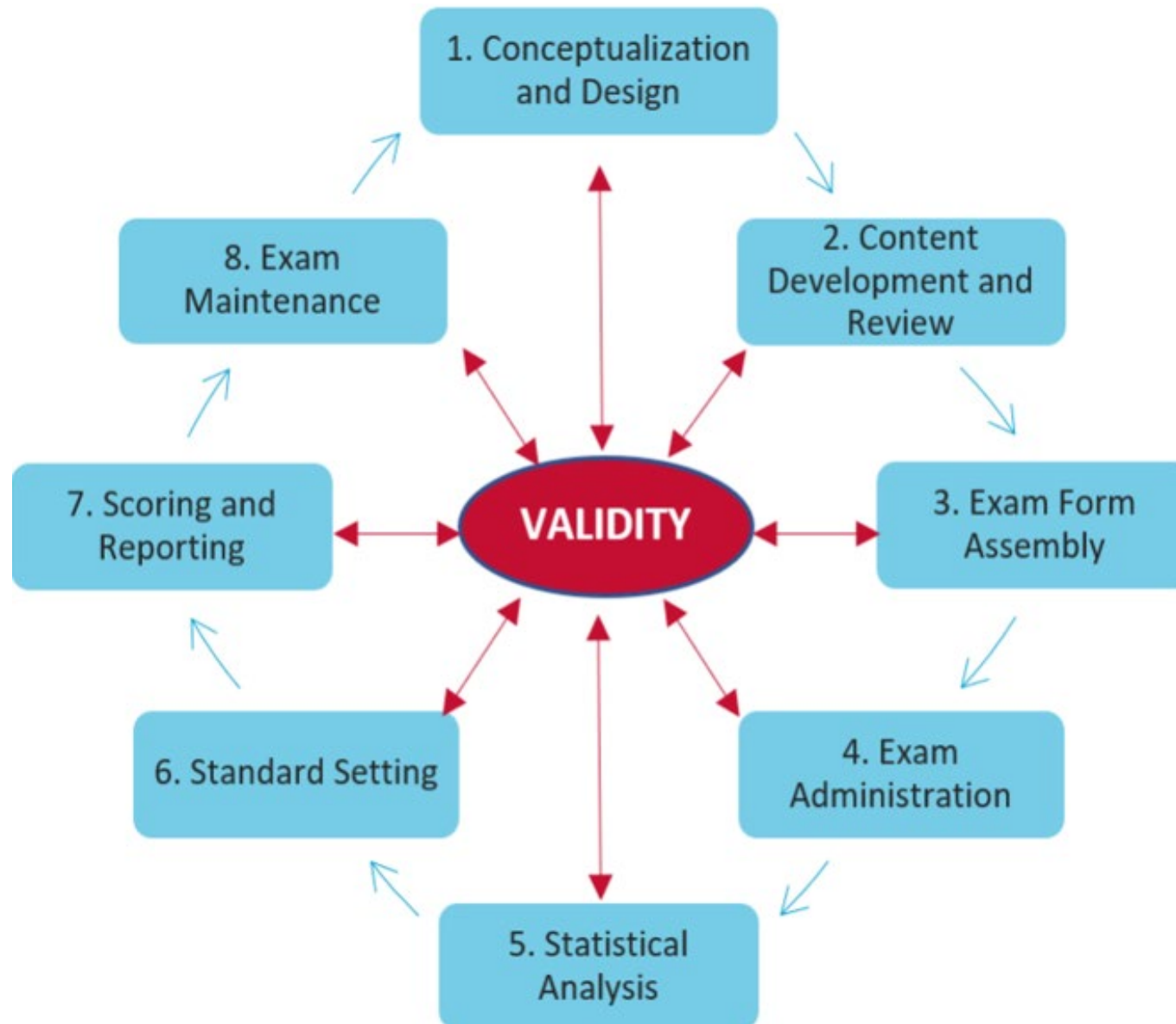
A 73-year-old man who has rheumatoid arthritis is receiving physiotherapy and other services in a multidisciplinary acute care facility. A volunteer in the facility reports to the physiotherapist that the client has been crying, not eating well, and worried about his family. The volunteer asks if the client is seeing a psychologist for counselling. How should the physiotherapist respond?

- A. Provide a description of the psychological supportive care that the client is receiving. Distractor
- B. **Explain that it is not appropriate to discuss the client's treatment.** CORRECT
- C. Offer to discuss the matter after consulting the psychologist. Distractor
- D. Remind the volunteer to concentrate on her assigned responsibilities. Distractor



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Creating a Defensible Exam

PCE Blueprint 2018



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- Outlines the **essential elements** to be covered by the exam
- What **proportion** of an exam will cover each element
- Organized under 2 dimensions: **Domains** and **Areas of Practice**

[PCE Blueprint 2018](#)

PCE Blueprint 2018



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DOMAINS		
Physiotherapy Expertise	50 - 60%	100 - 120 items
Communication	5 - 15%	10 - 30 items
Collaboration	5 - 15%	10 - 30 items
Management	3 - 7%	6 - 14 items
Leadership	3 - 7%	6 - 14 items
Scholarship	3 - 7%	6 - 14 items
Professionalism	5 - 15%	10 - 30 items

PCE Blueprint 2018



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AREAS OF PRACTICE		
Musculoskeletal	45 - 55%	90 - 110 items
Neurological	15 - 25%	30 - 50 items
Cardiovascular-respiratory	10 - 20%	20 - 40 items
Other	10 - 20%	20 - 40 items

PCE Blueprint 2018



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A 3-month-old baby boy with a diagnosis of congenital muscular torticollis requires physiotherapy in an out-patient department.

On palpation, the physiotherapist finds tightness of the left sternocleidomastoid muscle. Which of the following positions would the baby most probably maintain his head in?

- A. Right lateral flexion and rotation to the right.
- B. Right lateral flexion and rotation to the left.
- C. Left lateral flexion and rotation to the left.
- D. Left lateral flexion and rotation to the right.

Area of Practice	Musculoskeletal
Condition	01.01.14 Congenital malformations (e.g., talipes equinovarus, hip dysplasia)
Domain	Physiotherapy Expertise
Entry-to-Practice Milestone	1.4.2 Identify client's body structure and function impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions.

PCE Blueprint 2018



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<p>Continuum of Care</p> <p>1. Preventive / 2. Maintenance / 3. Restorative: acute/subacute/chronic</p>
<p>Client Groups</p> <p>1. 0-18 years / 2. 19-49 years / 3. 50-65 years / 4. Over 65 years</p>
<p>Client Gender</p> <p>1. Female / 2. Male</p>
<p>Practice Settings</p> <p>1. Acute Care Facility / 2. Private Practice / 3. Rehabilitation Centre / 4. Community Care / 5. Extended Care Facility</p>
<p>Associated Considerations</p> <p>1. Language/communication difficulties / 2. Differences in cultural background / 3. Functional disabilities / 4. Demanding work factors / 5. Socio-economic factors / 6. Social factors</p>

2023 Exam Dates



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DATE	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Sat, March 11	Mon, January 9
Mon, May 8	Mon, March 6
Sat, July 8	Mon, May 8
Sat, September 9	Mon, July 10
Mon, November 13	Mon, September 11

Exam Application



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- Application form, payment, and identity document
- CAPR does **not** accept photocopied, faxed, or emailed applications
- CAPR does **not** accept late applications

[Exam Registration Guide](#)

[Examination Eligibility Policy](#)

Exam Application



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Testing Accommodations

- **Accessible and equitable** services to **all candidates**
- Forms and information on our website
- Deadline is **30 business days before the exam**
- Be specific, carefully review the supporting documents required for your request

Exam Registration



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- Prometric
- **Schedule as soon as you receive your Registration Notice**
- Check the Prometric site daily

Exam Delivery



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- CAPR continues to use both in-centre and remote proctoring
- 15 exam administrations to date using dual modality
 - August 2020 – March 2023: 5,140 candidates
 - 42% In-centre
 - 58% Remote Proctoring
- NO differences in pass rates based on exam delivery modality



Exam Delivery



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Candidate Feedback on remote proctoring

	
<p>Can take the exam in own environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• convenience, comfort, familiarity• reduced stress <p>Can take the exam outside of Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• significant cost and time savings	<p>(Fear of) technical/connectivity issues</p>

Exam Delivery



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Taking the exam through Remote Proctoring

How do I prepare for a remote proctored exam?

CAPR Resources

- [Candidate Information Package](#)
- [Remote Proctoring Quick Reference and Troubleshooting Guide](#)
- [FAQs: Remote Proctoring of the PCE Written Component](#)

Exam Delivery



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Taking the exam through Remote Proctoring

How do I prepare for a remote proctored exam?

Prometric Resources

- [ProProctor webpage](#)
- [Systems Check](#)
- [ProProctor User Guide](#)

Exam Delivery



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Taking the exam through Remote Proctoring

What if I have issues during my remote proctored exam?

If you lose connection:

- Do not panic
- Exam time will **PAUSE**, progress will be **SAVED**
- Connect with Prometric helpdesk via live chat for assistance

Exam Preparation



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CAPR Resources:

- [PCE Blueprint 2018](#)
- [PCE Key Reference List 2022](#)
- Written Component Information Session
- [Essential Guide for Candidates](#)
- [Candidate Information Package: Remote Proctoring of the Written Component](#)
- [Written Component Practice Questions](#)
- [Written Component Practice Exam](#)

Exam Preparation



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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `prometric.com/test-takers/search/capr-practice-exam`. The page features a navigation bar with links for Test Center Closures, Become a Test Center, Careers, Events Calendar, Client Resources, and a language selector for English (US). The main navigation includes Prometric logo, COVID-19 Update, Test Takers (highlighted in blue), Test Owners, Remote Assessment, About Us, Contact (highlighted in yellow), and a search bar.

CAPR PRACTICE EXAM

TEST CENTRE EXAM

- [Locate](#)
- [Schedule](#)
- [Confirm](#)
- [Reschedule/Cancel](#)

REMOTELY PROCTORED EXAM

- [Schedule](#)
- [Reschedule](#)
- [Cancel](#)

[PREPARE FOR TEST DAY](#)

[WHAT TO EXPECT](#)

[FAQ](#)

CAPR PRACTICE EXAM

CAPR invites you to experience the scheduling and test delivery process that CAPR candidates will go through when they come to a Prometric test center. The Physiotherapy Competency Written Component – Practice Exam provides candidates an opportunity to familiarize themselves with Prometric’s Surpass assessment platform, which will be used to deliver the Written Component of the Physiotherapy Competency Examination. Before you begin, it is strongly recommended that you take a few minutes to review the tutorial, which provides an overview of the features available to you during the examination.

Please note that your performance on the practice exam will not predict your success or failure of the actual Written Component. These questions are provided for the sole purpose of allowing you to become familiar with this computerized environment.

This practice exam contains 50 questions, presented in sequential order. You will have 60 Minutes to answer all questions within this practice exam.

The practice exam experience includes check-in, ID confirmation, seating, tutorial, a sample test and check-out. Once checked in, you’ll be exposed to the full testing experience described above, in addition to the use of lockers, testing at a computer and exposure to Test Center Administrators (proctors) walk-throughs, which occur during any actual test. The practice exam will allow you to experience samples of question types that candidates might encounter on the actual exam in the future. Additionally, by driving to the testing center in advance, you can familiarize yourself with the parking situation, the location of the testing suite and the time it takes to drive to the center from your location.

Individuals interested in scheduling a practice exam can do so in the same manner in which candidates will schedule an actual exam. Schedule your practice exam now by clicking “schedule my test” above. Then, simply follow the on-screen steps which will walk you

Exam Preparation



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External Resources:

- [Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada \(2017\)](#)
- [National Physiotherapy Entry-to-Practice Curriculum Guidelines \(2019\)](#)
- Bridging Programs:
 - [University of Alberta: Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice](#)
 - [University of Toronto: Ontario Internationally Educated Physiotherapist Bridging \(OIEPB\) Comprehensive Program](#)
 - [Université de Montréal: Programme de Qualification Professionnelle en Physiothérapie \(QPP\)](#)
 - [McGill University: Equivalency in Physical Therapy Program](#)
- Exam Preparation Programs:
 - [University of British Columbia: PhysioRefresh Written Program](#)

Exam Day



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The Written Component exam day is **4.5 hours** in duration

- Arrive/be ready 30 minutes ahead
- Late: no access to exam, forfeit your exam fee
- Check-in and check-out for security
- Washroom breaks, note-taking allowed

[Rules of Conduct and Examination Security](#)

Exam Day



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Readiness on exam day

- Illness or any other extraordinary circumstance before exam day
- No show

Exam Scoring



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- Each question is **equally weighted**
 - 1 mark for each correct response
 - 0 marks (i.e., no deductions) for an incorrect response
- Total score = sum of correct responses
- Statistical analysis to evaluate performance of each MCQ and exam as a whole

Exam Scoring



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External committee reviews questions that do not perform as expected

- Score as is
- Re-key (e.g., change correct response or accept more than 1 response as correct)
- Remove from scoring

Exam Scoring



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Passing the Written Component

- Passing score (cut-score) is set using criterion-referenced standard setting method
- Modified Angoff method
- Standard setting panel of registered physiotherapists determine the passing score

Exam Scoring



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Passing the Written Component

- Exam result is based on whether you meet or exceed the standard of minimal competence
- Exam result is **not** based on how well other candidates perform on the exam
- Equating is used to mathematically adjust the passing score for each exam to account for variations in exam form difficulty

Exam Scoring



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Score Reporting

- Before releasing results, raw scores are **converted to scaled scores**
- Scaled score range is 200 to 800 with a **passing score of 600**
- Converting scores from raw scores to scaled scores does not change candidates' pass/fail result

Exam Scoring



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EXAMPLE	Candidate 1	Candidate 2
Exam	Form A	Form B
Maximum Possible Score	200	198
Raw Score	150	145
Raw Percentage Score	75%	73%
Raw Passing Score	138	132
Scaled Passing Score	600	600
Scaled Score	639	639

Results Release



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Timelines

- Written Component results are released to candidates and regulators within 6 weeks of the exam date
 - To the candidates:
 - By email
 - To the regulators
 - To Canadian universities:
 - Through annual Academic Reports

After the Exam



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Verification Request Form

- Submit the required forms to CAPR (exams@alliancept.org)

After the Exam



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Repeating the Exam

- Section A candidates (first attempt in or after 2013)
 - Maximum of **3 attempts** to pass the Written Component
- Section B candidates (first attempt prior to 2013)
 - Maximum of **5 attempts** to pass the Written Component

After the Exam



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Applying for a Re-Scoring

- Ensures that you received credit for all correct answers
- Results **rarely change** following a re-scoring
 - If re-scoring changes an exam result from a fail to a pass, the re-scoring fee will be refunded
- Request must be made **within 30 days** of results release

After the Exam



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Applying for an Administrative Reconsideration

May apply for an Administrative Reconsideration (AR) if one or more of the following circumstances applies:

- **Ill-health** on day of exam
- **Administrative issues**
- **Extraordinary circumstances**

[Administrative Reconsideration Policy](#)

After the Exam



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What happens next if I pass the exam?

- Contact the [regulator](#)



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Thank you!