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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

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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 |

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Stem

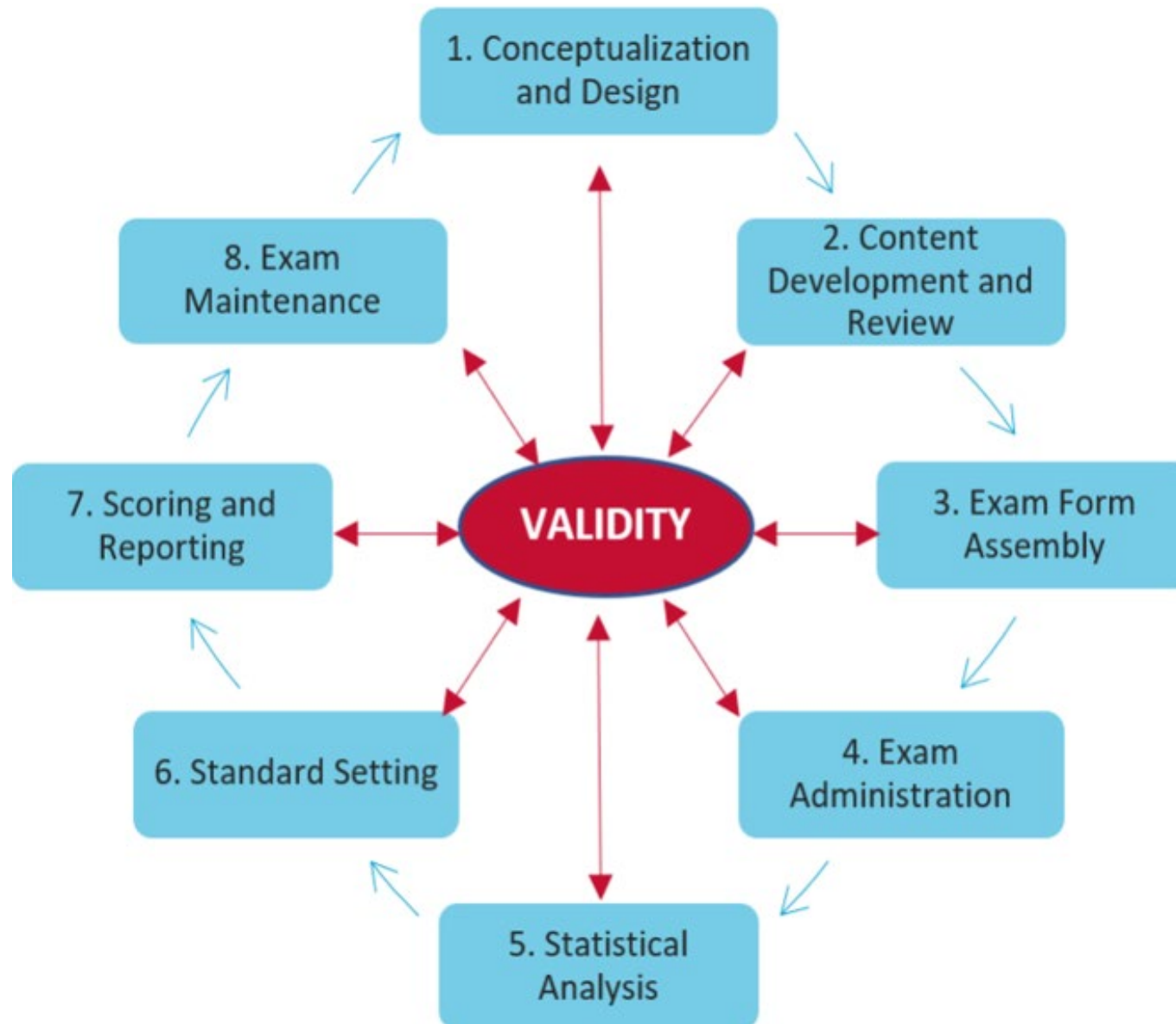
A 73-year-old man who has rheumatoid arthritis is receiving physiotherapy and other services in a multidisciplinary acute care facility. A volunteer in the facility reports to the physiotherapist that the client has been crying, not eating well, and worried about his family. The volunteer asks if the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

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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

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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.

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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>

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 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 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)

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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

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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

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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](#)

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What happens next if I pass the exam?

- Contact the [regulator](#)



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Thank you!