

## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS OF ONTARIO

**Board Meeting (Public)**  
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

### Commitment to the Public Interest

The public interest is the foundation of all decisions made by this Board. Acting in the public interest ensures that decisions consider: Accessibility, Accountability, Equality, Equity, Protection of the Public and Quality Care.

### Conflict of Interest and Bias

Board Directors are required to declare a conflict of interest or remove themselves from any discussion where they or others may believe that they are unable to consider a matter in a fair, independent and unbiased manner. A declaration in this regard must be made at the start of any discussion item.



## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 13, 2025				
Item	Time	Topic	Page	Purpose
*	9:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b> <i>(K. Schulz &amp; T. Stevens)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call</li> <li>• Territory Acknowledgement</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
1.	9:03 a.m.	<b>Review and Approval of the Agenda</b> <i>(K. Schulz)</i>	2-5	Decision
2.	9:07 a.m.	<b>Declaration of Conflicts of Interest</b> <i>(K. Schulz)</i>  Following approval of the Agenda, Directors are being asked to declare any known conflicts of interest with the Agenda.	6	Discussion
3.	9:10 a.m.	<b>Exam Update &amp; Transition Planning</b> <i>(C. Roxborough &amp; A. Ashton)</i>  The Board will be provided with an update about the exam space and a transition roadmap.	7-15	Information
4.	9:50 a.m.	<b>Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy</b> <i>(A. Ashton)</i>  The Board will be asked to approve a policy defining what qualifies as an examination under <i>O. Reg 532/98</i> General.	16-21	Decision
*	10:30 a.m.	<b>Break (10 Minutes)</b>		
5.	10:40 a.m.	<b>Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) Eligibility Policy</b> <i>(A. Ashton)</i>  The Board is asked for feedback on a policy outlining eligibility requirements for the Ontario Clinical Exam.	22-27	Discussion

6.	11:20 a.m.	<b>Exam Eligibility for Canadian Physiotherapy Exam</b> <i>(C. Roxborough)</i>  The Board will be provided with information regarding the proposed eligibility requirements for the new Canadian Physiotherapy Exam being developed by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR).	28-33	Discussion
*	12:00 p.m.	<b>Adjournment</b>		

# Meeting Norms



Use Zoom and keep your cameras on.



Ask questions by raising your (virtual) hand to be placed in the queue.



Proactively declare and manage any conflicts of interest.



Share the space by giving everyone the opportunity to be heard and actively listen to others.



Use the microphone or unmute yourself when speaking – otherwise stay muted.



Focus on the What and the Why, rather than the How.



Be present during Council meetings and refrain from sidebar conversations.



Assume everyone has a positive intent.

**Board Meeting**  
May 13, 2025

**Agenda #1.0: Review and Approval of the Agenda**

It is moved by

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and seconded by

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that:

The agenda be accepted with the possibility for changes to the order of items to address time constraints.

**2.0 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**  
Katie Schulz

**BOARD BRIEFING NOTE**  
For Information

<b>Topic:</b>	Exam Update and Transition Planning
<b>Public Interest Rationale:</b>	Transparency regarding physiotherapists' entry-to-practice competencies and qualifications helps ensure the delivery of safe, effective, and high-quality physiotherapy care.
<b>Strategic Alignment:</b>	<i>Risk &amp; Regulation:</i> A risk-based approach to transition planning proactively supports regulatory continuity and minimizes barriers for qualified applicants, ensuring a seamless and fair licensure process.
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Craig Roxborough, Registrar & CEO Anita Ashton, Deputy Registrar & Chief Regulatory Officer
<b>Attachments:</b>	Appendix A: Transitioning to Single Licensure Exam Appendix B: Flowchart Transition to a Single Exam

## Issue

- The Board is provided an update regarding the College's exam service offerings and preparation that is underway to support the eventual transition to the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) newly-developed Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTE).

## Decision Sought

- No decision is being sought.

## Background

- Historically, CAPR provided credentialing and examination services to Canadian physiotherapy regulators.
- The examination offered by CAPR consisted of two separate parts: a written examination, and a clinical examination.
  - Successful completion of the written examination allowed individuals to register in the Provisional Practice Certificate (PPC) class of registration. Holding this certificate allowed the individual to practice as a Physiotherapy Resident under the supervision of a physiotherapist approved by the College until the applicant was able to challenge the clinical exam and apply for an Independent Practice Certificate (IPC) of registration.
  - The clinical examination was an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), an in-person examination where a candidate would demonstrate their skills on standardized patients.

Successful completion of the clinical exam was one of the requirements for an Independent Practice Certificate of registration.

- In early 2020, the administration of the clinical exam was put on hold due to the onset of COVID-19.
- In January 2022, CAPR advised that the clinical exam would be discontinued entirely, and the provinces were left to create their own alternatives to the national clinical examination. CAPR continued to offer its written examination and credentialing services.
  - At the time of this announcement, CAPR had also committed to launching a broader initiative aimed at modernizing how entry-to-practice competency is assessed for physiotherapy practice.
- In October 2022, the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario launched the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) based on direction by the Board, which the College continues to administer today.
- In June 2024, the Board reviewed the results of an external evaluation of the OCE conducted by an independent psychometrician, which confirmed that the exam was functioning effectively and identified areas of improvement that have since been reported on and addressed.
- In the meantime, as part of their modernization efforts, CAPR began to develop a new examination solution that consolidates the written and clinical elements into a single exam.
  - The [December 2024 Board materials](#) provide a comprehensive overview of the College's licensure framework, the work done by CAPR to date and other key considerations regarding CAPR's evolution and the future of examinations.
- On [March 24, 2025](#), the Board agreed in principle to adopt the newly-developed Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTe) administered by CAPR as Ontario's licensure examination for entry to physiotherapy practice, pending transition planning and finalized service level agreements. As part of this decision, the Board also agreed to sunset both the Provisional Practice class of registration and the Ontario Clinical Exam.
- CAPR had noted that the first administration of the CPTe is expected to take place in January 2026, and that they will begin to accept applications to challenge the CPTe starting in July 2025.
  - CAPR has tentatively set November 2025 as the last offering of the written component of the examination but has indicated that additional sittings could be offered if needed.
- The service level agreement between the College and CAPR is still being developed for consideration by the Board. However, due to tight timelines, transition planning has already begun to ensure that candidates receive sufficient notice regarding the pending changes.



- Sharing information as it becomes available will help candidates plan any necessary immigration and licensure pathways despite potential uncertainty around shifting exam implementation dates.

### Current Status and Analysis

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- The Board is provided with updates on work underway to: (1) strengthen the OCE and respond to increasing demand for this exam, and (2) support the eventual transition to the CPTE.

#### *(1) Ontario Clinical Exam*

- The Examinations Committee has approved changes to the exam structure consistent with recommendations from the 2024 external review to ensure the OCE continues to be reliable, valid, and secure.
  - Changes to the exam blueprint taking effect in Fall 2025 will ensure that candidates demonstrate their clinical aptitude alongside an understanding of practice standards and legal requirements.
  - Previously, legal and practice expectations were assessed through short vignettes. The updated blueprint now incorporates these competencies into two in-depth case studies, where they will be considered as part of a broader clinical scenario to better assess real-world clinical skills.
  - These changes have been communicated to candidates scheduled to challenge the Fall 2025 exam sitting and beyond.
- Enrollment in the OCE is currently exceeding projections, and staff are evaluating options to manage the increased demand.
  - The remaining 2025 sittings and the first two sessions of 2026 are already at capacity.
  - To apply for a PPC, candidates must first have a confirmed OCE exam date. The College also aims to ensure that individuals in the PPC wait no more than six months between PPC registration and their first OCE attempt.
  - Given this, the College is actively evaluating the impact of the current demand and exploring potential solutions. The Board will be presented with additional detail to support the College's response to this demand once the analysis needed to support decision-making is complete.

#### *(2) Transition Update*

- Following the Board's in principle adoption of the CPTE, staff met with external legal counsel to develop a transition plan.
  - This included a preliminary analysis of the policy changes needed to support the transition.

- Two such policy changes are now being brought forward to support the transition and provide clarity to those seeking to practise physiotherapy in Ontario. They are provided separately as part of this Board package.
- It was also identified that ongoing and transparent communication regarding this transition would be needed following the decision to adopt the CPTE.
  - Preliminary updates were published to the College website immediately following the March 2024 Board meeting.
  - In the absence of further information, the College began to receive numerous inquiries and observed individuals and third parties speculating or sharing unofficial details.
  - To address this, the College developed content and an accompanying infographic (included as Appendices A and B) and published them ahead of the May Special Board Meeting. This material aims to answer key questions while clearly noting that further decisions, both short- and long-term, were still required and that regular updates would continue.
- The transition is expected to include a period during which both the current two-step and the future one-step exam pathways are offered concurrently. Individuals will need to choose the path that best suits their circumstances, taking into account timing and exam availability.
  - Those who have already completed the written exam will remain eligible for the PPC and may complete their entry-to-practice requirements by attempting either the OCE or CPTE to apply for an IPC.
    - Changes to the OCE eligibility are outlined separately in this Board package aiming to support this transition by clarifying who may pursue this pathway.
    - It is expected that the OCE will continue to be offered to allow all individuals up to 3 attempts to successfully pass the exam and complete this pathway to licensure.
  - Candidates that do not complete the written exam before it is retired will only be eligible for the CPTE. Candidates can elect, based on availability, to complete this route to licensure starting in January 2026.
- CAPR is also in the process of making key policy decisions that will support the launch and operation of the CPTE. The Canadian Physiotherapy Regulators (CPTR)<sup>1</sup> and CAPR have identified some policy decisions that require approval by regulators in partnership with CAPR.

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<sup>1</sup> As a reminder, with CAPR's evolution from an alliance of regulators to an exam service provider, the regulators needed to establish a new and independent forum for policy discussions and alignment. The CPTR has been established in a preliminary manner with Registrar's representing each Canadian jurisdiction where physiotherapy is regulated.

- The Board is provided with information separately within this Board package regarding CPTe eligibility and the tracking of exam attempts through the transition process. The Board's feedback will be shared with CPTR and CAPR to support decision-making at the national level.
- These policy decisions are necessary to finalize the scheduling of exams and to provide candidates with full information to support decision-making.

### Next Steps

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- The development of the necessary service level agreements with CAPR is underway, with an intention to seek Board approval at the June 2025 meeting.
  - As communicated previously, the service level agreements will include requirements including but not limited to: CAPR will continue to offer the written exam should issues arise with the launch of the CPTe, the operation of the CPTe not interfere with the viability of the OCE from an examiner perspective, commitments to schedule the exam in a manner that supports access for Ontario graduates, and commitments regarding the time to release exam results.
- The consultation currently underway on the proposed changes to the *General Regulation 532/98* is set to close on June 6, 2025. Pending the scope of the feedback received, the Board will be engaged to provide final approval of the revisions proposed in advance of submitting to the government for consideration.
- To begin to provide clarity to candidates and operationalize the transition, the Board is presented with three separate policy items as part of this Board package.

### Questions for the Board

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- Does the Board have any questions about the updates provided regarding the OCE?
- Does the Board have any questions regarding the transition plan to the CPTe?

## **Exam Transition – Important Updates for Candidates**

In January 2026, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) plans to launch a new single licensure exam called the Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTE). This exam will combine the written and clinical components into one exam.

The Board of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario supports the adoption of CAPR's new single exam, subject to the development of appropriate transitional provisions.

Adopting this single-step exam will change the pathway to become a physiotherapist in Ontario.

### **Single Exam Coming In 2026**

CAPR plans to start administering the new single exam in January 2026.

CAPR's single exam will:

- Be offered eight times in 2026
- Be conducted virtually over one day
- Combine written and clinical components with a single pass mark
- Evaluate critical competencies necessary for safe and effective physiotherapy practice

The cost of the new CAPR exam has not yet been finalized. However, CAPR has indicated the exam will not cost more than \$2,800.

### **Transition Period**

At this point, CAPR intends to continue to offer the written exam until at least the fall of 2025. As a result, the College plans to continue to offer the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) until at least March 2026, and longer if needed.

This means there will be overlap between the wind-down of the two-exam process and the launch of the single-exam process.

Currently, after completing CAPR's written exam, applicants:

- Register for the Ontario Clinical Exam run by the College.
- Can apply for a Provisional Practice Certificate so they can practice as a physiotherapist resident under supervision.

**With the adoption of a new single exam, the pathway to licensure would change.**

During the transition to a single exam, applicants and physiotherapist residents may pursue the following options. All options are time-limited and subject to deadlines and available exam seats.

**Option 1: Two-Exam Pathway**

1. Successfully complete the current CAPR written exam (written component of the Physiotherapy Competency Examination). The last administration will be November 26, 2025.
2. Register for either the College's Ontario Clinical Exam or CAPR's new single exam (subject to the eligibility criteria for each organization).
3. (Optional) Apply for a Provisional Practice Certificate, which allows you to practice as a physiotherapist resident under supervision.
4. Successfully complete either the Ontario Clinical Exam or the new CAPR single exam.
5. Apply for an Independent Practice Certificate with the College.

***Important things to note for this option:***

To be eligible to apply for a Provisional Practice Certificate, you must have successfully completed CAPR's written exam by the last administration on November 26, 2025.

Registration for the Ontario Clinical Exam will be available on a first come, first served basis. We are still determining how far into 2026 we will continue to offer the Ontario Clinical Exam.

The new CAPR single exam begins in January 2026. The January 2026 exam has limited seats, but future exams will have more availability. CAPR estimates results will be released four to five weeks after each exam.

### **Option 2: Single-Exam Pathway**

1. Wait and successfully complete the new CAPR single exam.
2. Apply for an Independent Practice Certificate with the College.

#### ***Important things to note for this option:***

At this time, the College anticipates that if you choose this pathway, you will not be eligible to register in the Provisional Practice Class as you will not have completed the written exam. Once you successfully complete CAPR's single, combined written and clinical exam you will be able to register directly in the Independent Practice Class.

**Important:** (this will be in a callout box)

Applicants who plan to register for a Provisional Practice Certificate or an Independent Practice Certificate before the end of 2025 must follow the two-exam pathway.

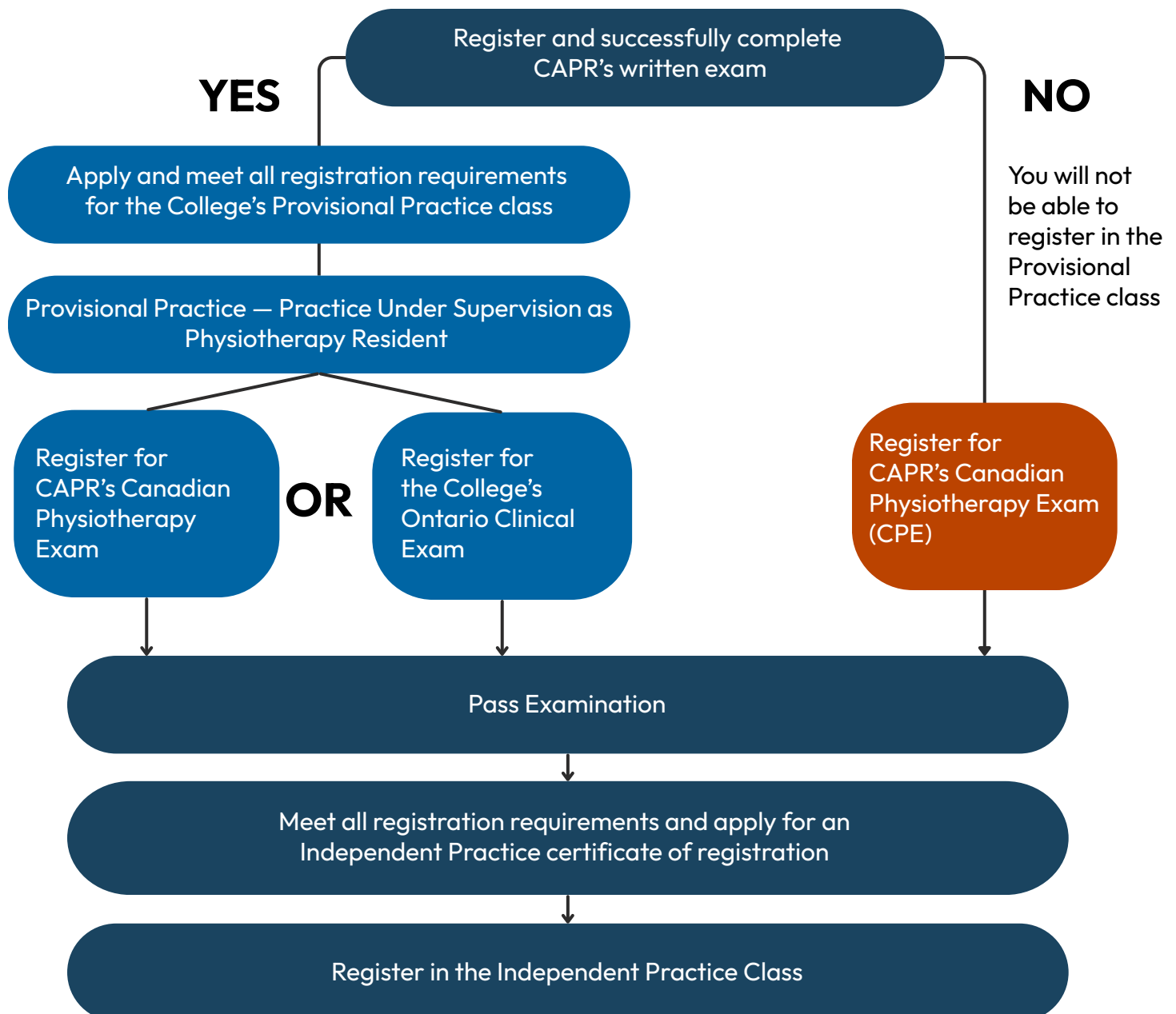
Applicants waiting for the new CAPR single licensure exam should be mindful that the first administration of the exam in January 2026 will have limited seats. After you complete the exam, you must wait for your results before applying for registration with the College. CAPR estimates results will be released four to five weeks after each exam.

The College's Board of Directors will be meeting on May 13, 2025 to discuss the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) eligibility criteria for 2026 and to consider some additional elements relating to the new CAPR exam. Additional information will be available after that meeting. We will continue to share information about the transition that is underway as it becomes available. Stay tuned for ongoing updates from the College and [visit CAPR's website](#).

## Transitioning to a Single Licensure Exam

The College's Board recently indicated their intention to adopt a new single exam as part of the pathway to become a physiotherapist in Ontario. This means that, pending appropriate transitional provisions, in 2026 the exam process will change from two exams — a written exam delivered by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) and a clinical exam delivered by the College — to a single exam that will combine the written and clinical components into one exam. The new single exam, the Canadian Physiotherapy Exam, will be run by CAPR.

The guide below is for applicants planning to register with the College during the transition to a single-exam process. CAPR is planning to discontinue their written exam at the end of 2025 and begin offering the single exam in January 2026.



**Board Meeting**  
May 13, 2025

**Agenda #4.0: Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy**

It is moved by

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and seconded by

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that:

The Board approves the *Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy* to define what constitutes an examination for the purpose of licensure in Ontario in accordance with General Regulation 532/98, effective January 1, 2026.



**BOARD BRIEFING NOTE**  
For Decision

<b>Topic:</b>	Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy
<b>Public Interest Rationale:</b>	Ensuring transparency regarding physiotherapists' entry-to-practice competencies and qualifications ensures the delivery of safe, effective, and high-quality physiotherapy care.
<b>Strategic Alignment:</b>	<i>Risk &amp; Regulation:</i> A risk-based approach to transition planning proactively supports regulatory continuity and minimizes barriers for qualified applicants, ensuring a seamless and fair licensure process.
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Anita Ashton, Deputy Registrar & Chief Regulatory Officer Craig Roxborough, Registrar & CEO
<b>Attachments:</b>	Appendix A: Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy

### Issue

- In support of the anticipated transition to the Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTE) in January 2026 or in the alternative, the availability of a new national entry to practice exam, the Board is provided with the Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy.

### Decision Sought

- The Board is being asked to approve the Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy to define what constitutes an examination for the purpose of licensure in Ontario in accordance with *General Regulation 532/98*, effective January 1, 2026.

### Background

- In accordance with *General Regulation 532/98* under the *Physiotherapy Act, 1991*, the College's Board of Directors must approve what constitutes as an entry-to-practice licensure examination for the physiotherapy profession.
- Historically, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) provided credentialing and examination services to Canadian physiotherapy regulators. The examination offered by CAPR, as approved by the Board, consisted of two separate parts: a written examination, and a clinical examination.
- Following the indefinite pause put on CAPR's clinical exam during the pandemic, the College developed and launched the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE).

- On [March 24, 2025](#), the Board decided to adopt the newly-developed Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTE) administered by CAPR as Ontario's licensure examination for entry to physiotherapy practice, in principle, pending transition planning and service level agreements. In adopting the CPTE in principle, the Board also agreed to sunset the Ontario Clinical Exam and is currently consulting on changes to the *General Regulation* that would sunset the Provisional Practice class of registration.
  - The CPTE is expected to be first available as of January 2026 and applications to attempt the CPTE will be accepted as of July 2025.
  - CAPR has tentatively set November 2025 as the last offering of the written component of the examination but has indicated that additional sittings could be offered if needed.
- While the service level agreement between the College and CAPR is still being developed for consideration by the Board, due to the tight timelines transition planning has begun to provide candidates with sufficient notice regarding the pending changes.
  - Sharing information as it becomes available will allow candidates to plan and make decisions with respect to their immigration to Canada where required, and the pathway to licensure, even if some uncertainty remains and implementation dates may shift as the transition continues to unfold. The principle of fairness requires that the College give ample notice to individuals seeking to complete the entry-to-practice requirements and practice physiotherapy in Ontario.

### Current Status and Analysis

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- An important aspect of transition planning is for the Board to define which entry-to-practice examinations are accepted by the College to qualify for an Independent Practice certificate of registration as of January 1, 2026.
- The proposed Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations Policy has been prepared to capture the exams, and combination of exams, that would qualify a prospective registrant to apply for an Independent Practice certificate of registration.
  - As part of the development process, the Registration and Examinations Committees had an opportunity to review and discuss the policy at their meetings on April 7, 2025, and April 23, 2025, respectively, with neither Committee raising any concerns. The policy was also developed with and reviewed by external legal counsel.
  - The policy covers both historical examinations and combinations thereof, as well as the examinations that are anticipated to be in place as of January 2026. In recognition of labour mobility, this includes any examinations or combination thereof that were approved by another Canadian provincial or territorial physiotherapy regulator between March 2020 and January 2026, the period of time where no national exam was available.

- Including all the examinations and combinations thereof in the policy creates flexibility with respect to the exam options that may be available to candidates throughout the transition period and allows for potential delays related to the first offering of the new CPTE.
- Furthermore, maintaining a record of historically accepted examinations also helps facilitate individuals' return to physiotherapy practice after a leave of absence without requiring completion of the most current exam.
- While the policy aims to be comprehensive and include all possible examinations and combinations thereof, any oversight could be addressed by the Registration Committee on a case-by-case basis since the exam can be exempted in accordance with the General Regulation.

### **Next Steps**

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- If approved, the policy would take effect on January 1, 2026. At that time, the Registration Committee will refer to the policy as needed when assessing qualifications for the Independent Practice Certificate.
- While this policy is being proposed now in order to start setting expectations for candidates that will be impacted by the transition, the policy does not go into effect until January 2026, aligning with the intended launch of the CPTE. Adjustments to the policy can be made in the future should any terms of the service agreements being developed with CAPR require adjustment or there are any delays that may occur with respect to the launch of the CPTE.

### **Questions for the Board**

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- Does the Board have any questions about the draft policy?
- Is there anything in the policy that requires clarification?

## Registration Committee

<b>Department</b>	Registration
<b>Title</b>	Board Accepted Entry to Practice Licensure Examinations
<b>Date Approved:</b>	XXX
<b>Effective Date:</b>	January 1, 2026
<b>Approved By:</b>	College of Physiotherapists of Ontario's Board of Directors
<b>Considered by:</b>	Registration Committee Exam Committee
<b>Dates Reviewed:</b>	April 7, 2025 – Registration Committee April 23, 2025 – Exam Committee
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	As required
<b>Version</b>	1.0

In January 2026, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) will launch the Canadian Physiotherapy Examination (CPE) to support national entry to practice licensure requirements. At its meeting on March 24, 2025, the Board of Directors of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario ("Board") confirmed that this national exam created by CAPR will serve as the examination requirement for an Independent Practice Certificate in Ontario effective January 1, 2026, subject to certain transitional provisions.

For additional clarity, what will be accepted as the "examination" requirement for an Independent Practice Certificate and to assist with transition, the Board has confirmed that effective January 1, 2026, an applicant's successful completion of any one of the groupings below will meet the examination requirement for an Independent Practice certificate of registration in Ontario.<sup>1</sup>

1. The Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPE) administered by CAPR and its successors successfully completed on or after January 1, 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> Any applicant for Registration will also need to meet all of the other requirements for the class of certificate being applied for including any non-exemptible requirements set out in the [General Regulation](#) at the time that the application is made.



## Registration Committee

2. The Physiotherapy National Exam (PNE) / Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE), both written and clinical components which was taken and successfully completed since the exam was launched to December 31, 2025.
3. The written component of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam administered by CAPR prior to March 31, 2023 and all requirements associated with the *Registration Committee Policy for Exempting Provisional Class Registrants (Residents) from the Required Clinical Examination*, which were successfully completed between January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.
4. The written component of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam and the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) which was taken and successfully completed prior to December 31, 2026\*.
5. The written component of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam and the University of Sherbrooke Final Comprehensive Exam which was taken and successfully completed between DATE and January 2026.
6. For applicants who held but who no longer hold a form of registration/licensure in another Province in Canada equivalent to an Independent Practice Certificate in Ontario, the exam process approved by that Canadian provincial physiotherapy regulator as a requirement for registration/licensure between March 2020 and January 2026.

In the scenario where an applicant registered with the College of Physiotherapists before 1993, has left the profession, wishes to reapply and can demonstrate that they meet the practice hour requirement of having accumulated at least 1200 practice hours over the last five years, the applicant is exempt from having to successfully complete an exam.

The OCE will no longer be offered after December 31, 2026\*. This means that candidates who attempt the OCE in 2025/2026, are unsuccessful and have other exam attempts available to them may be required to complete Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPE) if there are no available seats available for OCE.

\*the Registration Committee may extend the December 31, 2026 timeline at its discretion

**BOARD BRIEFING NOTE**  
For Discussion

<b>Topic:</b>	Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) Eligibility Policy
<b>Public Interest Rationale:</b>	Ensuring transparency regarding of physiotherapists' entry-to-practice competencies and qualifications ensures the delivery of safe, effective, and high-quality physiotherapy care.
<b>Strategic Alignment:</b>	<i>Risk &amp; Regulation:</i> A risk-based approach to transition planning proactively supports regulatory continuity and minimizes barriers for qualified applicants, ensuring a seamless, transparent and fair licensure process.
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Anita Ashton, Deputy Registrar & Chief Regulatory Officer Craig Roxborough, Registrar & CEO
<b>Attachments:</b>	Appendix A: Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) Eligibility Policy

### Issue

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- In support of the anticipated transition to the Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTE) in January 2026, the Board is provided with the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) Eligibility Policy.

### Decision Sought

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- No decision sought.
- The Board is being asked to provide feedback on the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) Eligibility Policy for use, effective June 1, 2025. The new policy will apply to any applications for the OCE received after June 1, 2025.

### Background

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- On [March 24, 2025](#), the Board approved the adoption, in principle, of the new Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTE) as the College's licensure examination for entry to practice, beginning in January 2026.
- Currently, applicants need to have successfully completed two examinations to qualify for an Independent Practice certificate of registration from the College:
  - A written examination (Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE)-Written) offered nationally by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR), and
  - The Ontario Clinical Examination (OCE), administered by the College of Physiotherapists.

- The CPE would replace both the PCE-Written and the OCE.
- For additional context, the [December 2024 Board materials](#) provide a comprehensive overview of relevant history, the College's licensure framework, CAPR's work to develop the combined exam, and other important considerations regarding the transition process.
- Moving to a new exam format requires that appropriate transition plans be made, including plans to phase out the OCE.
- As part of the planning process, on April 7, 2025, the Registration Committee approved, in principle, the adoption of the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) Eligibility Policy effective June 1, 2025.
  - The policy would replace the current Exam Eligibility Policy, which was initially approved on July 20, 2022.
  - The Examinations Committee had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed policy on April 23, 2025, and raised no concerns.
- While this is an operational policy within the responsibility of the Registration Committee, due to the significance and impact of the transition, the Board is being asked to provide feedback on the policy prior to final approval and implementation.

### Current Status and Analysis

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- The purpose of the Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE) Eligibility Policy is to outline the requirements under which applicants will be able to apply for and qualify to challenge the OCE during the transition period.
- The College is committed to continuing to administer the OCE for a limited period following the launch of the CPTE to ensure a fair transition for applicants and meet ongoing demand. This will allow eligible candidates who have passed the PCE-Written before the end of 2025 and registered in the Provisional Practice class to complete their original registration pathway without needing to also challenge the combined CPTE.
  - These individuals will remain eligible to register in the Provisional Practice class and challenge the OCE as the final step toward independent practice.
- Under the new policy, successfully completing the PCE-Written would not, on its own, guarantee eligibility to challenge the OCE. Additional requirements would apply to help determine whether the OCE is the appropriate exam pathway for a candidate instead of the combined CPTE.
- One of the new requirements would be that applicants must either currently hold a Provisional Practice class certificate in Ontario or must have held such a certificate in Ontario in the past and

still have at least one exam attempt left. Additionally, they would need to be eligible to practice in Ontario.

- Under these new requirements, applicants from other provinces where there is an examination or alternative to the clinical exam in place would not be eligible to register for the OCE going forward.
- This is to preserve OCE spots for applicants seeking to practice in Ontario and aligns with the College's commitment to ensure that any individual registered in the Provisional Practice class has an opportunity to challenge the OCE during the transition period.
- The policy also notes that while the current understanding is that the last offering of the PCE-Written will occur in November 2025, and that the College's Provisional Practice class in its current form would be phased out in 2026-2027, any extension to this timeline would impact the ongoing availability of the OCE.
  - As the transition unfolds, some uncertainty will remain until the new national exam has successfully launched. While the transition plan is based on current information, this provision is included in the policy to recognize that any shift in the timeline would impact when the last administration of the OCE may occur.
  - Additionally, changes to the Provisional Practice class are still pending as this requires changes to be made to the *General Regulation 532/98*. The Board has expressed an intention to sunset this class as it currently operates with the transition to a single exam.
- While this policy is being proposed now in order to start setting expectations for candidates that will be impacted by the transition period and provide them with fair notice of the impending changes, adjustments to the policy and any dates referenced within may be made in the future.
  - Any updates will depend on the terms of the service level agreement with CAPR that is currently being negotiated for consideration by the Board at the June meeting and any potential delays that may occur with respect to the launch of the new CPTE.

### Next Steps

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- Depending on the feedback received by the Board, the policy may return to the Registration Committee for final approval.
- Once approved, the College will communicate the changes to system partners.
- It should be noted that there is a high level of demand for the OCE and the remaining dates in 2025 are full as are the first two administrations in 2026. The College will continue to monitor the demand and adjust capacity as required. As per the [General Regulation 532/98](#), candidates are



required to have an exam date confirmed before they can register for a Provisional Practice certificate of registration.

- To help forecast demand for the remainder of 2026 and enable a timely sunset of the OCE, a final deadline has been established for applicants to register in the Provisional Practice class. At this time, the tentative date is January 31, 2026.

### Questions for the Board

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- Does the Board have any questions about the draft policy?
- Is there anything in the policy that requires clarification or that the Board would like to propose adding?

## Registration Committee

<b>Department</b>	Registration
<b>Title</b>	Ontario Clinical Exam Eligibility Policy
<b>Date Approved:</b>	XXX
<b>Effective Date:</b>	June 1, 2025
<b>Approved By:</b>	Registration Committee April 7, 2025
<b>Considered by:</b>	Board May 13, 2025 Exam Committee April 23, 2025
<b>Dates Reviewed:</b>	April 7, 2025      Registration Committee April 23, 2025    Exam Committee May 13, 2025     Board
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	As required
<b>Version</b>	1.0 Linked to Exam Eligibility Policy 2.0 effective July 20, 2022

In January 2026, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) will launch the Canadian Physiotherapy Examination (CPE). The College's Board of Directors confirmed that successfully completing this national exam will meet the College's "examination" requirement for an Independent Practice Certificate of Registration. The other Independent Practice Certificate of Registration (IPC) eligibility requirements are outlined in [Ontario Regulation 532/98](#).

At this time, we understand that the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators' Physiotherapy Competency Exam – Written (PCE written) will no longer be offered after November 2025 and the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario's Provisional Practice Certificate (PPC) of Registration will be phased out in 2026-2027. Any extension to this timeline will have an impact on the ongoing availability of the OCE.

This policy provides direction about the pathway to licensure for those people who have successfully completed the Physiotherapy Competency Exam-Written and are waiting to take the Ontario Clinical Exam.

There will be a period where the Canadian Physiotherapy Exam and the Ontario Clinical Exam will run simultaneously.

## Registration Committee

### **Who Can Take the Ontario Clinical Exam After January 1, 2026**

1. The exam applicant submits their application to register for the Ontario Clinical Exam no later than **January 31, 2026**, or a later date approved by Committee.
2. The exam applicant has Canadian citizenship, permanent resident status or an authorization under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada) to work in Ontario.
3. The exam applicant successfully completed the Physiotherapy Competency Exam Written exam within five years of the date of applying to attempt the Ontario Clinical Exam.
4. The exam applicant currently holds a Provisional Practice Certificate of Registration in Ontario granted before January 31, 2026, or a later date approved by Committee, or
5. The exam applicant previously held a Provisional Practice Certificate of Registration in Ontario and still has one of their three exam attempts available to them. This means that the person has not attempted the Physiotherapy Competency Exam – Clinical, Ontario Clinical Exam or a clinical exam alternative available in any Canadian jurisdiction more than two times.

### **Who Cannot Register to Take the Ontario Clinical Exam after January 31, 2026:**

1. The individual is registered to practice as a physiotherapist resident, or equivalent, in a Canadian jurisdiction where an entry to practice clinical exam or alternative is available.
2. The individual has been unsuccessful on the Physiotherapy Competency Exam – Clinical, Ontario Clinical Exam or an alternative to the Physiotherapy Competency Exam- Clinical available in another Canadian jurisdiction more than three times combined.
3. The individual submits an application to register for the Ontario Clinical Exam after January 31, 2026 or a later date approved by Committee.

### **Managing the Transition to Practice When Not Eligible for the Ontario Clinical Exam**

Individuals who are not eligible to attempt the Ontario Clinical Exam may be eligible to take the Canadian Physiotherapy Exam. This will be offered by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators starting in 2026. Details about the exam eligibility criteria and registration is available on CAPR's website [www.alliancept.org](http://www.alliancept.org).

**BOARD BRIEFING NOTE**  
For Discussion

<b>Topic:</b>	Exam Eligibility for Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTe)
<b>Public Interest Rationale:</b>	Transparency and national consistency regarding physiotherapists' entry-to-practice competencies and qualifications ensures the delivery of safe, effective, and high-quality physiotherapy care.
<b>Strategic Alignment:</b>	<i>Risk &amp; Regulation:</i> A risk-based approach to transition planning proactively supports regulatory continuity and minimizes barriers for qualified applicants, ensuring a seamless and fair licensure process.
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Craig Roxborough, Registrar & CEO
<b>Attachments:</b>	N/A

### Issue

- With the development and anticipated launch of the Canadian Physiotherapy Exam (CPTe) in January 2026, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) is setting eligibility criteria to take the CPTe. The Board is asked to provide feedback to support decision-making at the national level.

### Decision Sought

- No decision is being sought.

### Background

- CAPR has historically set policies with respect to their examination services in conjunction with its Board of Directors, which was previously constituted by its regulator members, meaning the College Registrar or a Board appointed representative. Under this structure, representatives from provincial and territorial physiotherapy regulators (Colleges) were able to provide input on examination policies directly.
- With the transition of CAPR from a pan-Canadian alliance of regulators to a service provider supporting regulators, its governance structure has changed and the Board of CAPR is no longer comprised of representatives from physiotherapy regulators.
- CAPR is committed to ensuring that the input of physiotherapy regulators is sought on policy decisions. In some instances, regulator approval is required and will be sought through the national collective of provincial and territorial physiotherapy regulators across Canada, namely the Canadian Physiotherapy Regulators (CPTR).

- Given the critical importance of exam eligibility to regulators, CAPR has engaged CPTR in a discussion on key issues within this policy.
- The Board of this College is being consulted to ensure that Ontario's perspective on this issue can be shared and considered as part of this decision-making process.

### Current Status and Analysis

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- To support the operation and implementation of the new CPTE, CAPR has been reviewing and updating their existing exam policies to ensure they are fit for purpose with the new exam.
- In consultation with the CPTR, CAPR has identified the Exam Eligibility policy as requiring regulator approval through CPTR.
  - While operational in nature, regulators have a collective interest in ensuring the eligibility criteria are appropriate and aligned with broader public protection objectives.
  - It is necessary for a single position to be adopted to support CAPR's implementation process as it is not possible nor appropriate for jurisdictional variability in this regard.
- There are two critical elements of the Exam Eligibility policy that require specific decisions from CPTR. They are:
  1. Initial Eligibility: The timing of when candidates (both Canadian and internationally educated) can challenge the exam.
  2. Eligibility to Retake: The number of attempts candidates have with respect to the exam.
- Each issue is outlined below for the Board's consideration and to collect feedback that can be shared with CPTR in support of a final decision.

#### (1) Initial Eligibility

- An Exam Eligibility policy sets out the requirements that must be met prior to challenging the exam, including, *when* a person can do so.
- These requirements have historically differed between the written and clinical exams, and for Canadian and internationally educated candidates.
  - For the written examination component:
    - Canadian educated students are able to challenge the exam during the final term of their studies, as defined by their program.

- Internationally educated candidates must first receive confirmation of eligibility from CAPR's credentialing program.
- For CAPR's (retired) clinical exam as well as the College's Ontario Clinical Exam (OCE), all candidates must have completed their academic program and successfully passed the written exam.
- Given these differing requirements, moving to a consolidated single exam requires a decision to be made with respect to when candidates can challenge the exam.
  - No decision is being sought with respect to internationally educated candidates. It is proposed that a completed credentialing process still be required before becoming eligible to challenge the exam. This ensures that the candidate has been confirmed to possess the requisite education and training and is a suitable candidate to challenge the exam.
  - For Canadian-educated candidates, a decision is needed as to whether they should be permitted to challenge the CPTe during their final term (as is currently permitted for the written exam component) or only after completing their program (as is currently required for the OCE).
- The Board is asked for feedback on whether Canadian educated candidates should be permitted to challenge the exam in their final term or wait until program completion.
  - If candidates are permitted to challenge the exam during the final term of their program, it is anticipated that universities will still be free to define final term as they see fit. This could include defining it in a manner that prevents students from challenging the exam until their clinical training is complete.
  - Alternatively, if program completion is required (e.g., program requirements are complete and candidate is eligible for convocation) CAPR is committed to offering a sitting of the exam as close to program completion as is possible and it is possible to enable registration prior to program completion.
- Key considerations related to this decision include:
  - The public interest is served by ensuring only qualified individuals can successfully challenge entry-to-practice examinations;
  - The public interest is served by ensuring that individuals progress through entry-to-practice and licensure processes as quickly as possible as there is strong demand for healthcare practitioners;
  - Provincial governments across Canada have been challenging regulators to find opportunities to reduce barriers and accelerate entry-to-practice and registration processes;

- Canadian students are often managing significant debt loads and would benefit from transitioning to practice as quickly as possible;
- Academic programs have voiced concerns regarding existing eligibility requirements that enable students to challenge the written exam during their final term and have repeated these concerns with respect to the consolidated exam, expressing a strong preference that program completion be required;
- Some other professions permit individuals to challenge their exam while still completing their program requirements, although that tends to be where there are smaller number of exam offerings per year; and
- The total time from exam registration to licensure may be up to 14 weeks: CAPR is anticipating closing registration 8 weeks prior to an exam date, CAPR anticipates releasing results within 4 weeks of the exam, and the College registers nearly all applicants within 15 days of receiving an application if the registration requirements are met.

## *(2) Eligibility to Retake*

- Entry-to-practice examinations typically include a limit on the maximum number of attempts that a candidate has to successfully complete the exam. These limits ensure a balance between fairness and risk.
  - Given that examinations evaluate candidates at a single point in time, an individual's performance may be compromised by a variety of factors such as stress, illness, or personal circumstances. As such, it is reasonable to allow more than one opportunity to demonstrate their competence. Additionally, an exam review and appeal process will also exist in addition to setting a maximum number of attempts.
  - At the same time, best practices in examination design discourage unlimited attempts. Allowing candidates to challenge the exam repeatedly and indefinitely can lead to increased familiarity with the exam content, elevate the risk of false positives, and create inequities if individuals have different opportunities to access the exam.
- Historically, the CAPR written and clinical exams have allowed candidates to challenge each exam a maximum of 3 times.<sup>1</sup>
- Similarly, when the College established the OCE, a 3-attempt maximum was established. Importantly, the OCE maximum includes failed attempts at either the historical CAPR clinical exam or any other provincial alternative to the clinical exam.

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<sup>1</sup> Historically CAPR did allow up to 5 attempts. However, this has not been the case for over 10 years.

- Consideration must now be given as to whether to establish a 3-attempt maximum for the CPTE and whether to track attempts across historical examinations through the transition period. It is currently being proposed that:
  - A 3-attempt maximum be preserved for all candidates who are beginning the entry-to-practice process with the CPTE. This is in line with both best practices and research regarding challenging entry-to-practice examinations.
  - Attempts *across* historical variants of the clinical exam be tracked and counted towards the maximum, similar to the current approach for the OCE (e.g., if a candidate has failed the OCE twice, they would be granted only 1 attempt at the CPTE).
- Tracking attempts across variants of the clinical exam ensures that no candidate is able to repeatedly and excessively attempt to satisfy the entry-to-practice requirements. Generally speaking, psychometric advice would discourage too many attempts even across different versions of the exam.<sup>2</sup>
  - That said, it is possible that the transitions between the retired CAPR clinical exam, provincial alternatives during and following the pandemic, and the introduction of a new consolidated exam may create ambiguity or perceived inconsistencies. This could introduce some risk of candidates who have “failed out” of the process raising procedural challenges and seeking to re-enter the exam pathway. While this position may require a defence if contested by a candidate, it may be a prudent stating point and is consistent with the College’s current position.
  - It is also anticipated that the College will retain discretion to grant an additional attempt in exceptional circumstances. This may include, for example, a material change in the candidate’s education or training (e.g., completion of a bridging program, completion of a physiotherapy program in Canada etc.).
- The Board is asked for feedback on the maximum attempts policy and the tracking of attempts across variants of the clinical exam.

### Next Steps

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- The feedback provided by the Board will be shared by the Registrar as part of deliberations that are occurring between CPTR and CAPR.
- Ultimately, a collective position on these issues will need to be decided as it is not possible for there to be jurisdictional variability.

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<sup>2</sup> CAPR’s internal psychometric review confirms this position and an external opinion is being sought to confirm this approach.



- Decisions regarding exam eligibility, particularly regarding initial eligibility, will help determine the specific dates within the exam schedule that is being set following its launch in January 2026 and support transition planning and communications.

### Questions for the Board

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- Does the Board have any questions about the eligibility criteria being considered?
- What feedback does the Board have regarding (1) when individuals can challenge the exam, and (2) the number of attempts individuals have to challenge any combination of clinical exams?