



## Preparation Guide for the Membership Exam of the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
Updated October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### *Introduction*

This document is intended to assist candidates in preparing for the Membership exam. The Membership exam is delivered in two parts: a 5 hour written exam followed by an oral exam. Only the candidates having successfully completed the written exam are eligible to take the oral exam.

Although this document provides guidance to candidates, it is not meant as a single definitive source of preparation. Every candidate needs to tailor their preparation for their own needs and experience. This is not meant as a prescriptive document but rather offers general advice!

### *Oral exam*

Candidates who have successfully completed the written exam will be notified that they are eligible to proceed to the oral examination on a specified date, which usually takes place two months after the written component. The oral exam focuses on **clinical medical physics knowledge** in the candidate's subspecialty area. A panel of examiners composed of experienced certified medical physicists will examine the candidate.

Relevant and important information on the oral exam format:

- The exam lasts 90 minutes and consists of three individual sessions of about 30 minutes each.
- During each session, about 5 questions will be asked on topics chosen according to the candidate's subspecialty.
- The questions are often made of one principal question with additional sub questions.
- The current list of topics for the different subspecialties can be found in the table below. These topics may evolve over time to reflect clinical practice and will be confirmed with the candidates before the oral exam.

Candidates are required to answer questions thoughtfully, in an organized manner. It is important to focus the answer on the question at hand and remain clear and concise to avoid veering off-topic. Note that time is also a constraint and that the candidates must be able to convey a complete, well-rounded answer within the respected time limit.



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Although oral exam questions are confidential and past candidates are obliged not to share or discuss them, candidates are allowed and encouraged to hold oral practice exams with colleagues. These mock exams can help the candidate to better manage high stress situations as well as improve their communication skills.

| <b><i>Radiation Oncology</i></b>    | <b><i>Diagnostic Radiology</i></b>  | <b><i>Nuclear Medicine</i></b>      | <b><i>Magnetic Resonance Imaging</i></b>      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Equipment and Calibration           | QA/Acceptance Testing/Site Planning | QA/Acceptance Testing/Site Planning | QA/Acceptance Testing/Site Planning/Artifacts |
| Clinical Applications               | Clinical Applications               | Clinical Applications               | Clinical Application/Special Techniques       |
| Radiation Safety/Special Techniques | Radiation Safety/Special Techniques | Radiation Safety/Special Techniques | MR Safety                                     |

Table 1: Summary of the topics covered for the different subspecialties