



Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada Questions & Answers for Pharmacists

Overview

Q1 What is the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada?

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) is the national certification body for the pharmacy profession in Canada. PEBC is a non-profit organization with more than 50 years of experience in assessing the qualifications and competence of candidates for licensing by pharmacy provincial regulatory authorities. Established by Special Act of Parliament on December 21, 1963, PEBC functions as an arms-length national examining board for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians seeking entry-to-practice licensure in Canada.

Q2 What is the purpose of the PEBC?

The purpose of the Board is to assess qualifications for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians on behalf of participating provincial regulatory authorities. To that end, the Board awards Certificates of Qualification to those applicants who pass a Qualifying Examination. A major responsibility of the Board is to assure the achievement of a minimal level of competence to practice at an entry-level. PEBC assesses the qualifications of both Canadian and international pharmacy graduates. The rigorous certification process administered by PEBC ensures the quality of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians entering practice and is a vital component in the delivery of safe and effective health care to Canadians.

Q3 How does the PEBC relate to provincial regulatory authorities?

Provincial legislation restricts the practice of pharmacy to qualified persons. The PEBC Certificate of Qualification for pharmacists is a licensing requirement for entry-to-practice applicants (whether trained in Canada or outside Canada) in all provinces, except Quebec. This certificate is one important requirement for licensure, but each province also has other requirements before granting of a license, such as practical experience, language proficiency and jurisprudence assessment.

Q4 How is PEBC Governed?

The PEBC is governed by a national Board of Directors, comprised of representatives of the participating provincial regulatory authorities, the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada, the Canadian Pharmacists Association, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association, and the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians. The five-member Executive Committee is headed by the President, who is elected annually. Dr. John Pugsley serves as Registrar-Treasurer, based in PEBC's Toronto office.

Q5 What organizations are represented on the PEBC Board of Directors?

The following organizations are represented on the PEBC Board: The Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board; the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists; the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacy, the Prince Edward Island College of Pharmacists; L'Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec; the Ontario College of Pharmacists; the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba; the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals; the Alberta College of Pharmacy; the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia; the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada; the Canadian Pharmacists Association; the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists; the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians, and the Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association.

Qualifying Examination for Pharmacists

Q6 What is the purpose of the Qualifying Examination?

The Qualifying Examination is an important evaluation of an applicant's competence (knowledge, skills and abilities) to practice pharmacy safely and effectively in an entry level position. This evaluation is based on the practice competencies defined in "Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice" by NAPRA, 2014. The Qualifying Examination ensures that successful candidates have met the required standard of competence.

Q7 What does the Qualifying Examination involve?

There are two parts to the Qualifying Examination - Part I (MCQ) or QE-I (MCQ) and Part II (OSCE) or QE-II (OSCE).

Part I of the Qualifying Examination is a multiple choice question (MCQ) examination. It is a single day, computer-based exam.

Part II of the Qualifying Examination is a performance-based assessment called an "objective structured clinical examination" (OSCE), and is taken on either a morning or afternoon on a different day than Part I. The QE-II (OSCE) consists of a series of "stations" simulating common and/or critical practical situations. These simulations often involve interactions with a "Standardized Patient" or "Standardized Client" (e.g., parent or caregiver) or a "Standardized Health Professional".

General

Q8 How can additional information about PEBC and its certification processes be obtained?

Additional information concerning the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada can be obtained by emailing the PEBC office at pebcinfo@pebc.ca or by contacting the office by telephone at 416-979-2431 or by fax at 416-599-9244. PEBC office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the office closed for lunch between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. PEBC's Web address is www.pebc.ca.

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