



Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Practitioners and Acupuncturists

Alliance canadienne des organismes de réglementation des praticiens de la
médecine traditionnelle chinoise et des acupuncteurs

Notice to Pan-Canadian Examination Candidates January 12, 2021

In December 2020, CARB-TCMPA published its latest edition of the Pan-Canadian Examinations Candidate Handbook. This version includes an update to the language availability of the exams and notes that the October 2021 administration will be the last administration of the Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese translations of the exams. Reaching this decision was not taken lightly. As an organization that delivers exams for candidates across the country, we strive to balance several critical factors that are part of high-stakes exam delivery.

CARB-TCMPA is committed to delivering fair, valid, and reliable credentialing exams to ensure the defensibility of the entry-to-practice exams. We use the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, ISO 17024: Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*, and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies' *Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs* to guide the development and delivery of the exams. These standards help us ensure a fair and defensible process to assess a candidate's competence in the areas listed in the *Pan-Canadian Standard for Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists: Entry-Level Occupational Competency Profile*. These standards also ensure that only candidates who have demonstrated sufficient competency enter the profession. This is critical for the regulatory bodies and for the safety of the clients and public that registered practitioners serve.

We strive to deliver a national exam that treats all candidates fairly and offers a consistent exam experience and conditions across Canada. As a national organization, we consider the diverse perspectives of candidates across Canada. In deciding the availability of the Pan-Canadian Examinations, we must also consider that the licensing regimes in Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, and Quebec do not permit candidates to take the exams in Simplified Chinese or Traditional Chinese.

Further, offering credentialing exams in alternative languages is not a simple matter of translating the examination content. A lengthy and rigorous process must be undertaken to meet the high standards required of a credentialing exam. We must include multilingual subject matter experts, professional translators, cultural sensitivity reviews, added quality



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assurance measures, and supplementary statistical analyses throughout the test lifecycle. This ongoing process is lengthy, resource intensive, and costly. Passing this cost along to candidates could create a financial burden to candidates and potentially introduce a barrier to enter the profession.

CARB-TCMPA recognizes the importance and value that Chinese culture and language has in the practice of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. We develop and maintain multilingual tables of concordance in the Candidate Handbook on key terminology to support the diverse methods and approaches to TCM education in Canada. These appendices are made available to all candidates during their exams.

Candidates are encouraged to review the Candidate Handbook for information about the exam format, content, sample questions, exam administration, and more.

About CARB-TCMPA

The Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CARB-TCMPA) is the national forum and voice of provincial regulatory authorities that are established by their respective provincial legislation. Through collaborative activities, CARB-TCMPA promotes quality practice and labour mobility across Canada. For more information about CARB-TCMPA, visit carb-tcmpa.org.