

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Information for Completing the Practice Enhancement Tool (PET)

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WHAT IS THE PET?

What is the PET?

The **P**actice **E**nhancement **T**ool (PET) is one of the elements of the Quality Assurance Program of the Dentistry Act. It is an independent, online evaluation that assesses a dentist's knowledge, skill and judgment through a series of multiple-choice questions in six competency areas. All dentists must complete the PET five years after registration with the RCDSO and every five years thereafter.

Why do I need to complete the PET?

Our governing legislation, the [Regulated Health Professions Act](#), requires the College to have a Quality Assurance Program that includes self, peer and practice assessments. In accordance with [O. Reg. 27/10: QUALITY ASSURANCE](#), all dentists with a general or specialty certificate of registration are required to complete the PET assessment once every five years. This includes dentists who hold an academic certificate of registration.

WHAT IS THE PET? *(continued)*

How are the questions assigned?

All routine PET assessments include six of the 16 competency areas of practice:

- Caries
- Dental anesthesia
- Dental public health
- Endodontics
- Infection prevention and control
- Jurisprudence and ethics
- Medical emergencies
- Operative (restorative) dentistry
- Oral medicine and pathology
- Oral surgery
- Orthodontics
- Pediatric dentistry
- Periodontics
- Pharmacology
- Prosthodontics
- Radiology

For those with a specialty certificate in dental anesthesia, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral medicine, oral pathology, oral radiology, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics or prosthodontics, the assessment will include their specialty area, as well as five additional competency areas that are most relevant to their specialty.

Does the PET assessment qualify for any CE points?

Completion of the PET does not count towards your CE requirements with the College as it is a separate requirement of [O. Reg. 27/10: QUALITY ASSURANCE](#). However, any continuing education completed in preparation for the PET may be eligible for CE points (e.g., completing courses or reading dental textbooks).

GET STARTED ON YOUR PET ASSESSMENT

How do I access the PET?

Log into the [RCDSO Portal](#).

- 1 Click on My Account
- 2 Select **ePortfolio and Assessments** from the drop-down menu
- 3 Scroll down to the Assessments section to find **Current Assessment**
- 4 Click the arrow at the far right
- 5 Select **View Details** to see which competencies are included in your assessment or **Take Assessment** to begin your PET
- 6 When you select **Take Assessment**, you will be redirected to the PET website. Follow prompts to begin your PET.

What technical requirements do I need?

- Use any device that has access to the internet.
- Ensure your browser is current/up-to-date.
- Clear your cache or browsing history.

How much time do I have to complete the PET?

Log into your RCDSO Portal to find your three-month window. You may begin your PET at any time during that window and have 30 days from the date you begin to complete and submit your PET.

Do I have to complete my PET assessment all at once?

No. You can log in and log out at any time within your 30-day allotment. Your progress will be automatically saved.

Can I start the PET assessment at any time?

You can log in at any time within your three-month start window to begin. You must complete and submit your assessment within 30 days of your start date.

GET STARTED ON YOUR PET ASSESSMENT *(continued)*

What happens if I do not start the PET assessment within my three-month start window?

If you do not begin the PET within the assigned three-month window, access to your PET is disabled. You must contact us at PET@rcdso.org to make arrangements to complete your PET as this is a requirement under the [Quality Assurance Regulation of the Dentistry Act](#).

Are there any resources that I can review to prepare for the PET?

The assessment is open-book. There is no single source of information to assist you with every question. Some questions have the source reference listed. Not all questions have a reference, but we are working on adding references to all questions with each competency review. You can refer to textbooks, journals and many other resources to help you answer the questions. This is all part of the learning process.

We have compiled a list of [useful resources](#) to help you.

NAVIGATE THROUGH YOUR PET

Do I have to proceed through the assessment in numerical order?

No, you can determine the order using our question grid.

Can I leave a question unanswered?

All questions **must be answered** before submitting your assessment.

SUBMITTING YOUR ASSESSMENT

What happens if I begin but do not submit my assessment on my due date?

If you begin the PET within the assigned three-month window, but do not submit it by the due date, access to your PET is disabled. You must contact us at PET@rcdso.org to discuss next steps as completion of the PET is a requirement under the [Quality Assurance Regulation of the Dentistry Act](#).

REVIEW YOUR RESULTS

Will I receive my results when the assessment is submitted?

Yes. Once you have completed and submitted your assessment, the program will immediately let you know your results, including pass/fail and numerical percentage scores for each of the six competencies.

What is the passing score?

The PET includes six competencies. You must score **at least 60% in each competency** area to pass. For example:

- A general practitioner must correctly answer at least 20 of 33 questions in EACH of the 6 competencies.
- A dentist who holds a specialty registration certificate must correctly answer at least 30 of 50 questions in their specialty AND at least 18 of 30 in EACH of the 5 additional competencies.

Why is there a Pending PET in the Current Assessment section when I had recently completed and submitted my PET?

Your recently completed PET is listed in the Previous Assessments section where you can see your percentage scores. The Pending PET in the Current Assessment section is your next PET scheduled to take place in five (5) years.

FOLLOW UP ON YOUR RESULTS

What should I do next once I have completed the PET?

We encourage you to reflect on your strengths and areas where perhaps some additional continuing education would be helpful.

What happens if I fail in one or more competency areas?

For each failed competency area, you must, within six months of your fail date:

- Complete a continuing education course in that competency area(s).
- Enter your continuing education course into your ePortfolio and ensure that the entry includes the competency failed.
- Notify PET@rcdso.org that you have completed the course(s) and updated your ePortfolio.

Once the PET team has verified your course completion(s), you will be assigned a retake assessment that includes all failed competency area(s). You must complete and submit your retake within six months of its assignment.

What happens if I fail my retake assessment?

If you fail your retake assessment, your results will be forwarded to the Quality Assurance Committee for further action.

You may be required to participate in a **Practice Assessment**. A Practice Assessment may involve an inspection of the dentist's practice including review of emergency preparedness, general operations, infection prevention and control, operatories, and radiographic quality control. It may also include interviews with the dentist and dental office staff, chart audit and/or observation of care to patients.



WHO MAY I CONTACT AT THE COLLEGE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND/OR TECHNICAL SUPPORT?

You may contact our PET team by sending an email to PET@rcdso.org.

If you have difficulty accessing your RCDSO Portal account, contact our IT team at paperless@rcdso.org.

For more information and resources, go to the [Practice Enhancement Tool section](#) on the RCDSO website. You will find a user guide, video(s), live drop-in session links and other resources to guide you.