

2022–2023 Directors

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President's Letter



CHRISTOPHER AMALOO
MS, CMD

Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of the newsletter! As President, I am excited to share some of the latest developments and highlights from the MDCB.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge all the candidates who sat for the most recent exam and commend our newly certified medical dosimetrists! Congratulations on this incredible achievement; it is a testament to your hard work, dedication, and commitment. As you move forward in your careers, the abilities you have demonstrated will reflect the extraordinary potential you possess. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and greatly anticipate the positive impact you will make in our professional field.

At the current time, it continues to be reasonable to conduct two administrations of the exam per year to allow for the minimal passage of time between candidate eligibility and the exam window. The MDCB remains focused on driving the advancement of the medical dosimetry profession through the delivery of a psychometrically sound and legally defensible exam. As a primary guidepost, this directs our overall processes and subsequent determinations. Performance-based testing continues to be an area of great focus and attention for the board. Initial procedures in this regard have been refined based on candidate feedback, opening new and exciting possibilities for future exams once appropriate and rigorous validation of methods is completed. This practice will enhance candidate clinical proficiency, while simultaneously ensuring that the highest standards of testing are maintained.

The MDCB continues to utilize [LinkedIn](#) as the main platform for social media updates. There, you can meet the board of directors, find information on the upcoming exam, access some frequently asked questions about continuing education, and review important notifications on CMD renewal or other important news. An initiative to provide a more in-depth look at novel and highly relevant topics can now be found in the new quarterly blog posts located on the MDCB website [here](#). The first quarter post, *Institutional Accreditation in Radiation Oncology Supports Certification*, offers insights on the importance of CMD utilization as an essential part of ACR, ACRO, and ASTRO accreditation. Be on the lookout for the next exciting topic!

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow board members for all their incredible dedication and hard work. I am very proud of the progress we have made throughout these last few years: administering a valid and reliable exam that continues to evolve with the changes in the field of dosimetry, maintaining high standards for continuing education, and developing opportunities to ensure that certified medical dosimetrists have the knowledge and skills needed for providing accurate and safe treatment planning for the patients under our care. It has been an honor to serve with everyone in this important work, and I look forward to assisting Stephanie Olson, our current President-Elect, as she continues to move the MDCB toward a bright future. As a group, we are committed to ensuring the dosimetry profession is wholly supported and we welcome your feedback and suggestions at info@mdcb.org on how we can continue to improve and best meet the needs of the community.

Thank you for your continued support. Please enjoy this latest edition of the newsletter.

Best Regards,

Christopher Amaloo MS, CMD
MDCB President ♦

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UPDATE ON The MDCB Exam

The MDCB continues to assess the exam to ensure it reflects current practice. The MDCB Board regularly participates in item review workshops. During the workshops, exam items are reviewed for relevance assuring that they align with exam [test specifications](#) and that the items are clearly written and formatted.

The performance-based items using the Elekta ProKnow platform continue to be used on the CMD exam. Candidates are asked to review a scan and respond to a multiple-choice question that references the scan. These performance-based items have greater fidelity to the work of dosimetrists.

The MDCB will continue to strive to achieve its mission to “steer the advancement of the Medical Dosimetry profession.”

January 2023 Exam Statistics

- 103 applications were approved for the January 2023 exam, 101 US candidates and 2 international candidates.
- The test was administered at more than 83 Prometric test sites in the US and internationally.
- The pass rate was 85%.
- The scaled raw cut score for passing is 600 out of a total possible of 800. ♦

September 2023 Exam

The application for the September exam will be available beginning April 14, 2023. Before starting the application, applicants are required to read the [Applicant Handbook](#) and familiarize themselves with:

- All requirements and procedures related to the exam application
- All dates related to the application and exam
- Fee policies
- Ethical standards
- Exam content domains
- Exam references.

Candidates are reminded when preparing for the MDCB CMD exam to review the test matrix. The test is developed in accordance with the test categories and sub-categories detailed on the matrix. Candidates should also be familiar with recommended reference materials: popular textbooks covering subjects in radiobiology, physics, dosimetry, cross-sectional anatomy, and principles of radiation oncology practice. Other relevant resources are reports published by the AAPM, ABS, ASTRO, ICRU, ICRP, and NCRP as well as published RTOG clinical trials and NCCN guidelines. ♦

CONGRATULATIONS

to the January 2023 exam candidates who successfully challenged the exam!

Todd Adrian
Joslyn Allgood
Seth Alvarado
Kaitlyn Andrews
Ajay Banskota
Sarah Basyouni
Erika Benham
Parita Bhandari
Grace Bowhall
Elizabeth Bullock
Christian Chirinos
Christopher Cochran
Jennifer Curtin
Cristina DiGeronimo
Mark Duncan
Jackson Evans
Hugh Feely
Katie Figura
Kelly Foucher
Sean Friedrich
Whitney Gee
Kaitlyn Goetsch
Fikadu Hailu
Tyrone Hamilton
Jovan Hatcher
Dusti Henion
Tram Hoang
Shayna Hoye
Christian Islas
Amy Joseph

Lisa Jumper
Kelsey Kibbe
Holly King
Cheyenne Kitchell
Jamie Kruger
Kelly LaBant
Lynette Lancaster
Hong Min Lee
Toni Lima
Xinying Lin
Alexander Liu
Jackie Loomis
Shawn Loutos
Xinli Mai
Noufal Manthala Padannayil
Chloe Manzi
Dana Martinez Garcia
Tatum McGlynn
Caleb McGowan
Carrie Merfert
Meagan Miller
Jourdan Mills
Rashad Momoh
Lindsey Money
Jose Moreno
Tracy Ngo
Vivi Nguyen
Anthony Nguyen
Juliana Nguyen
Joshua Nguyen

Tran Nguyen
Vicente Ornelas
Carlos Palomeque
Brianna Perla
Keri Reel
Jessica Richardson
Sierra Rupert
Jonathan Sanchez
Sydney Schornack
Gregory Smith
Melissa Soltysik
Sarah Spadafore
Caroline Stevens
Christian Strachan
Jessica Strang
Leanna Ta
Nicholas Toups
Mei Sane Troeung
Christina Turner
Darwin Vasquez Figueroa
Melanie Vera
Qun Wang
Madolyn Wenn
Martin Whiting
Brianna Woodburn
Amber Wyatt
Ladan Yazdidoust
Kaixin Zhao

2024 Exam Dates

Dates for the administration of the 2024 January and September exams have been posted on the MDCB website:
<https://mdcb.org/certification-exam-information/exam-dates-and-fees>.

The exam is administered at Prometric Test Sites around the world. Please visit "Locate a Test Center" at www.prometric.com. ◆

Job Task Analysis

The MDCB will be conducting a Job Task Analysis (JTA) later this year. In certification testing, best practice dictates a job task analysis be completed at least every five years. A JTA is also commonly known as a role delineation study, role and function study, or practice analysis. Conduct of a JTA on a regular basis assures the certification exam maintains relevance to current medical dosimetry practice.

Specific procedures are followed to gather descriptive information about the tasks performed for a job and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform those tasks. These procedures are conducted in accordance with *The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*¹ (1999). “*The Standards*” is the definitive authority in testing and outlines the criteria for the evaluation of tests, testing practices, and the effects of test use. The MDCB JTA is guided by the MDCB test vendor, Prometric.

The study identifies the content domains – categories that represent the subject matter that is required for a dosimetrist. The study also establishes content validity, the extent to which the content covered by an examination is representative of the tasks and knowledge needed to perform a job. Further, the conduct of the job task analysis assists in establishing the legal defensibility of the certification exam.

For the initial phase of the study, a group of volunteer certified medical dosimetrists, representative of various demographic groups within the profession, will be selected to participate in a task group. Factors for selection of the subject matter expert volunteers are related to region, job setting, experience, and gender.

The task group reviews the results of the previous job task analysis. Through review, discussion, and revision of the previously identified task and knowledge statements, the group identifies the current tasks and knowledge necessary for the performance of a medical dosimetrist.

As a result of the task group’s responses provided at the task group meeting, a draft outline related to task and knowledge domains is developed. The task force reviews the draft for any modifications prior to release as a pilot survey.

CMDs, who have not been previously involved in the development of the survey, assess and offer recommendations to improve the pilot survey. Task Group members review the results of comments made by pilot test participants. As a result, further revisions may be made, and the survey is finalized.

The survey is then delivered online to the dosimetry community at large for response, both CMDs and non-CMDs, nearly 5,000 professionals. Respondents are asked to rate the knowledge and task statements on a scale of importance in the daily performance of medical dosimetry (0 = no importance to 4 = very important). Participants have the opportunity to provide comment including recommendations for test content.

The next step of the practice analysis is to develop test specifications. A test specifications meeting is conducted inclusive of one-half of the group of original task force members, as well as participants that were not a part of the original task group. Only task and knowledge statements with a mean rating of 2.50 or above are included in the test specifications.

In order to determine weights for each of the test content areas each member of the task force is asked to individually assign a percentage weight to each of the domains identified from the survey and compare those weights to the weights assigned by the survey respondents. Through discussion, the final weights are assigned to the content areas.

Task and knowledge linking is conducted before the release of the job task analysis. Linkage verifies that each knowledge area included on an examination is related to the performance of one or more important tasks. Next, a Test Specifications Committee conducts a crosswalk, comparing the prevailing test specifications to the newly developed specifications.

Finally, Prometric delivers a final job analysis report. The report identifies the test blueprint, test domains, and sub-domains. The current test blueprint includes:

- Radiation Physics – 16%
- Localization – 8%
- Treatment Planning – 40%
- Dose Calculation Methods – 15%
- Brachytherapy – 6%
- Radiation Protection – 7%
- Quality Assurance and Standard of Care – 8%

Details from the last Job Task Analysis are available at <https://mdcb.org/certification-exam-information/exam-development>. The MDCB hopes that when a call for volunteers for Job Task Analysis participation is circulated later this year, you will respond. ♦

1 American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education. (1999). *The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION UPDATES

Learning Plan Review Schedule for 2023

To assist CMDs in maintaining their learning plans, the MDCB will be reviewing learning plans based on the following schedule in 2023:

- Year 5 of Cycle: Continuous review for CMDs with a 5-year cycle ending in 2023.
- Year 4 of Cycle: January, April, July, and October for CMDs with a 5-year cycle ending in 2024.
- Year 3 of Cycle: February, May, August, and November for CMDs with a 5-year cycle ending in 2025.

- Year 2 of Cycle: March, June, September, and December for CMDs with a 5-year cycle ending in 2026.
- Year 1 of Cycle: March, June, September, and December for CMDs with a 5-year cycle ending in 2027.

Learning Plan Submission

CMDs whose five-year cycle ends on December 31, 2023 are reminded to submit learning plans for completion by November 30, 2023. ♦

Updates and Reminders from the AAMD

Earn CE Credits and Explore New Orleans this June with AAMD

Join your medical dosimetry colleagues at the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting, June 4 – 8, 2023 in New Orleans, LA. This meeting is the premier educational event for treatment planning professionals from around the world. Highlights include:

- **Educational Sessions offering 30+ CE credits (anticipated):** Learn about the very latest developments in radiation oncology while earning MDCB, ARRT, and CAMPEP credits.
- **Networking with your colleagues:** Discuss challenges and share ideas.
- **Exhibits:** Discover the latest products for radiation oncology, visit with your vendors, and meet new ones.
- **Treatment Planning Workshops:** Go in-depth with hands-on training and practice new techniques.

Early Bird registration rates end May 4. [Get all the details and register today!](#)

Link: <https://web.cvent.com/event/33ac9f55-67cd-4312-91a5-082653aaf9a0/summary> ♦

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

As a recognized member of the health-care field providing critical care to individuals facing life-threatening illnesses, it is the sole responsibility of each Certified Medical Dosimetrist to adhere to the MDCB Ethical Standards, renew their credential annually by December 31 of each calendar year, earn and document 50 continuing education credits in each five-year cycle, and make necessary updates to personal contact information in the CE Center. Renewal fees submitted after December 31 will be subject to a late fee. Failure to submit the renewal fees for any calendar year may result in the loss of the CMD credential.