



CPHIMS-CA Exam Sitting

The combined Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems–Canada (CPHIMS-CA) credential is available for Canadian health informatics (HI) practitioners through a collaboration between COACH and the [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) (HIMSS). Information on the [CPHIMS Credential](#) can be found on the HIMSS website.

The CPHIMS-CA Exam consists of the CPHIMS Exam plus the Canadian Supplemental Exam. [Eligible candidates](#) who successfully complete the exam will be awarded the CPHIMS-CA certificate, issued jointly by COACH and HIMSS, and the credential.

Write CPHIMS Exam

The complete CPHIMS-CA is also available at AMP centers. You can find the exam application, registration details and more on the [AMP website](#).

AMP will arrange for you to write the exam at a [Canadian AMP test center](#) that is convenient for you after your application is approved. If you have questions, please call the AMP Candidate Support Center at **1-888-519-9901/(913) 895-4600**. The complete CPHIMS-CA Exam will also be available through AMP starting **July 1**.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility standards are designed to include those experienced in healthcare information and management systems, but exclude others. To participate in the CPHIMS examination, a candidate must qualify under one of the following options.

- Bachelor's degree (or global equivalent) plus five (5) years of associated information and management systems experience*, three (3) of those years in healthcare **OR**
- Graduate degree (or global equivalent) plus three (3) years of associated information and management systems experience*, two (2) of those years in healthcare

*Associated information and management systems experience includes experience in the following functional areas: administration/management, clinical information systems, e-health, information systems, or management engineering.

Study Materials

You can turn to a variety to [study materials](#), including the [CPHIMS Review Guide](#) and [CPHIMS-CA Canadian Supplemental Examination Study Guide](#).

Host an Exam

Hospitals and other organizations with large workforces can arrange to have exam sittings at their location or a convenient location for two or more employers. Contact **Alison Gardner**, COACH Director, Programs at agardner@coachorg.com or the phone numbers below to arrange.

How will you benefit?

Leaders from across health informatics support CPHIMS-CA as a valuable resource for the industry. [Read their comments.](#)

Questions?

Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or contact COACH at info@coachorg.com, phone 416.494.9324, toll free 1.888.253.8554.

Frequently Asked Questions



Here are answers to common questions about CPHIMS-CA.

Find out about [employer recognition](#), [eligibility](#), exam [sittings](#), [study materials](#), [fees](#), [scores](#), [failures](#), [writing the exam at a test center](#) and more.

[Q. What is CPHIMS-CA?](#)

[Q. What are the benefits of CPHIMS-CA?](#)

[Q. Do employers recognize CPHIMS-CA?](#)

[Q. I am a physician. What does CPHIMS-CA offer me?](#)

[Q. How is HIMSS involved with CPHIMS-CA?](#)

[Q. Is the CPHIMS Exam American?](#)

[Q: What content does the Canadian Supplemental Exam cover?](#)

[Q. Who is eligible to write the CPHIMS-CA Exam?](#)

[Q. I don't have a baccalaureate or graduate degree. Can I obtain the credential?](#)

[Q. When can I take the CPHIMS-CA Exam?](#)

[Q. Can I write the exam at a test center now?](#)

[Q. What is a Special Administration?](#)

[Q. What are the exam fees?](#)

[Q. Is the CPHIMS-CA Exam paper or electronic?](#)

[Q. Are there study materials I can use to prepare for the exam?](#)

[Q. When I will receive my exam score?](#)

[Q. What happens if I pass the CPHIMS Exam, but fail the Canadian Supplemental Exam?](#)

[Q. What happens if I pass the Canadian Supplemental Exam, but fail the CPHIMS Exam?](#)

[Q. Do I receive a certificate?](#)

[Q. What is the designation I can put after my name once I successfully complete the CPHIMS-CA Exam?](#)

[Q. Do COACH members need to have the CPHIMS-CA designation as a requirement of membership?](#)

[Q. In future, will CPHIMS-CA Exam candidates have to be supervised by a CPHIMS-CA-certified individual?](#)

[Q. Do I need to renew my CPHIMS-CA designation?](#)

[Q. How can I find more information about the CPHIMS-CA credential?](#)

Q. What is CPHIMS-CA?

A. CPHIMS-CA, the Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems–Canada, is the first credential of its kind for Canadian health informatics professionals. The CPHIMS-CA designation is awarded to eligible candidates who successfully complete the related exam.

[back to top](#)

Q. What are the benefits of CPHIMS-CA?

A. The benefits include:

- Providing evidence of professional competency to globally respected criteria;
- Building confidence in the public, patients, employers, government and others;
- Providing students and junior practitioners with goals for career and professional development;
- Enhancing patient safety and the consistency of health informatics (HI) professionals' skill and practices;
- Contributing to accountability in health care spending;
- Enhancing the profile of HI as a profession, along with the salaries;
- Creating professional development opportunities and working conditions to attract qualified people and address the current shortage of competent HI professionals.

[back to top](#)

Q. Do employers recognize CPHIMS-CA?

A. Definitely. A valuable recruitment tool, the credential tells the employer that a candidate has been tested and found to meet respected measurements of what it means to be a competent health informatics professional. CPHIMS-CA also flags other important characteristics for hiring and performance evaluation – commitment to professional development and interest in learning and improvement. Leaders from across the industry – from government health agencies and universities to the vendor and clinician sectors – support the credential as a long overdue resource.

[Read their comments.](#)

[back to top](#)

Q. I am a physician. What does CPHIMS-CA offer me?

A. This credential will benefit physicians who are using or in the process of acquiring an electronic medical record system, as well as all others who are participating in EHR stakeholder consultations and working groups. The presence of credentialed physicians who are involved in health informatics will accelerate the reality of an interoperable EHR across Canada.

[back to top](#)

Q. How is HIMSS involved with CPHIMS-CA?

A. CPHIMS-CA was developed through a partnership between COACH and the [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society \(HIMSS\)](#), based in Chicago. The CPHIMS-CA Exam is made up of two parts – the exam for the globally-respected HIMSS Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS) certification and the Canadian Supplemental Exam that COACH has developed.

[back to top](#)

Q. Is the CPHIMS Exam American?

A. No. The CPHIMS Exam is now an international exam. This is one reason COACH is using it for CPHIMS-CA. All specific U.S. references were removed from the CPHIMS Exam when the content outline was updated in 2007-08. However, it is helpful to remember that the exam was written by Americans and may have terminology used primarily in the U.S. It may be useful to have a general idea about the U.S. healthcare system.

[back to top](#)

Q: What content does the Canadian Supplemental Exam cover?

A: The Canadian Supplement Exam covers competencies that aren't part of the CPHIMS Exam, plus competencies that require a higher level of understanding for the Canadian context. Major subject areas for this exam are: standards, information management, the Canadian health system and analysis and evaluation. This exam consists of 30 multiple-choice questions. It may also include up to five test questions, upon which candidates will not be scored.

[back to top](#)

Q. Who is eligible to write the CPHIMS-CA Exam?

A. Candidates must have a baccalaureate degree (or global equivalent) plus five years of associated information and management systems experience, with three of those years in health care OR a graduate degree (or global equivalent) plus three (3) years of associated information and management systems experience, with two (2) of those years in health care. Associated information and management systems experience includes experience in the following functional areas: administration/management, clinical information systems, e-health, information systems, or management engineering.

[back to top](#)

Q. I don't have a baccalaureate or graduate degree. Can I obtain the credential?

A. At this time, no. The CPHIMS-CA eligibility requirements are not intended to be exclusionary, but have been harmonized with those for the widely-recognized and respected CPHIMS professional certification. Candidates must meet the educational and professional experience requirements before they register for the exam. If you do not meet these prerequisites, COACH offers a range of professional development opportunities through the Health Informatics Professionalism Program. These include the [Health Informatics Training System \(HITS\)](#) online self-study course, the annual [e-Health conference](#), the [Fall Forum](#) and new career development tools.

[back to top](#)

Q. When can I take the CPHIMS-CA Exam?

A. The next CPHIMS-CA Exam sitting will take place at the [COACH Fall Forum](#) on **Nov. 18** in Toronto. Details will be posted as available. You can also write the exam at a test center.

[back to top](#)

Q. Can I take the exam at a test center now?

A. Yes. You can now write the CPHIMS Exam and the Canadian Supplemental Exam at any Applied Measurement Professionals Inc. (AMP) test center in Canada throughout the year, except on statutory holidays. You can find registration, application and other information on the [AMP website](#). Or call the AMP Candidate Support Center at **1.888.519.9901/913.895.4600**. AMP will arrange for you to take the exam at a location that is convenient for you. See the [Canadian AMP](#)

[locations](#).

[back to top](#)

Q. What is a Special Administration?

A. After the e-Health conference, organizations with at least 15 exam candidates can arrange for a group exam sitting, also known as a "special administration." Organizations that don't have 15 candidates, can work with another organization to come up with 15 candidates and arrange a joint sitting. Contact Alison Gardner, COACH Director, Programs at agardner@coachorg.com to arrange.

[back to top](#)

Q. What are the exam fees?

A: Contact **Alison Gardner**, COACH Director, Programs at agardner@coachorg.com or by phone 416.494.9324, toll free 1.888.253.8554.

[back to top](#)

Q. Is the CPHIMS-CA Exam paper or electronic?

A. At e-Health 2009, the exam was in paper format. However, it is be administered electronically at the AMP test centers.

[back to top](#)

Q. Are there study materials I can use to prepare for the exam?

A. Yes. Use the CPHIMS-CA Canadian Supplemental Examination Study Guide, which can be downloaded at no charge from [the website](#). You can also purchase [Preparing for Success in Healthcare Information and Management Systems: The CPHIMS Review Guide book](#) or CD-ROM directly from COACH. COACH also offers free [online study sessions](#) from time to time. See the [Study Materials page](#) for more information.

[back to top](#)

Q. When I will receive my exam score?

A. Results for the first sitting at the e-Health 2009 conference will be released about **six weeks** after the sitting because it was a paper-administered exam. Results for exams written at Canadian AMP test centers will be mailed to candidates right away.

[back to top](#)

Q. What happens if I pass the CPHIMS Exam, but fail the Canadian Supplemental Exam?

A. You will hold the CPHIMS credential, but you will have to retake the supplemental exam in order to attain the full CPHIMS-CA credential.

[back to top](#)

Q. What happens if I pass the Canadian Supplemental Exam, but fail the CPHIMS Exam?

A. Your Canadian credential will be "held" for one year. If you pass the CPHIMS Exam during this time, you will attain the full CPHIMS-CA credential. If you do not retake the CPHIMS Exam during the one-year period, you will have to retake the Canadian Supplemental Exam.

[back to top](#)

Q. Do I receive a certificate?

A. Yes. Candidates who successfully complete the exam will receive a certificate issued jointly by COACH and HIMSS.

[back to top](#)

Q. What is the designation I can put after my name once I successfully complete the CPHIMS-CA Exam?

A. CPHIMS-CA.

[back to top](#)

Q. Do COACH members need to have the CPHIMS-CA designation as a requirement of membership?

A. No. Note that you don't have to be a COACH member to write the CPHIMS-CA Exam. Qualified non-members are encouraged to write.

[back to top](#)

Q. In future, will CPHIMS-CA Exam candidates have to be supervised by a CPHIMS-CA-certified individual?

A: This supervision is not presently required, but this approach may be adopted in the future. This supervision will certainly enhance the credibility of the credential.

[back to top](#)

Q. Do I need to renew my CPHIMS-CA designation?

A. Yes. The CPHIMS-CA designation must be renewed every three years. This can be done by retaking the exam or participating in approved health informatics training and education activities.

[back to top](#)

Q. How can I find more information about the CPHIMS-CA credential?

A. Contact COACH at info@coachorg.com, phone 416.494.9324, toll free 1.888.253.8554.

[back to top](#)