

Key Features Exam

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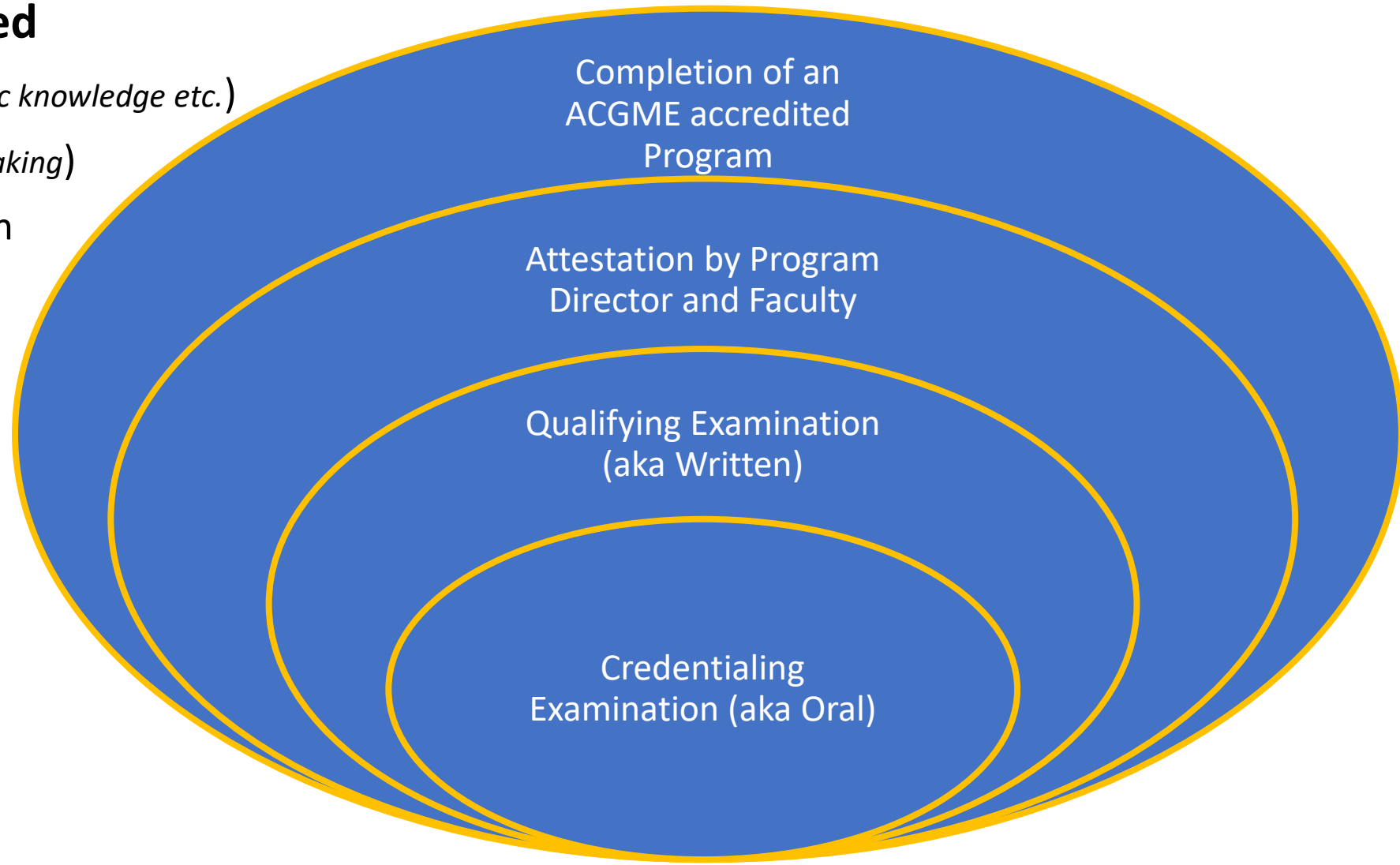
on behalf of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery



ABTS Credentialing Process

Dimensions being Assessed

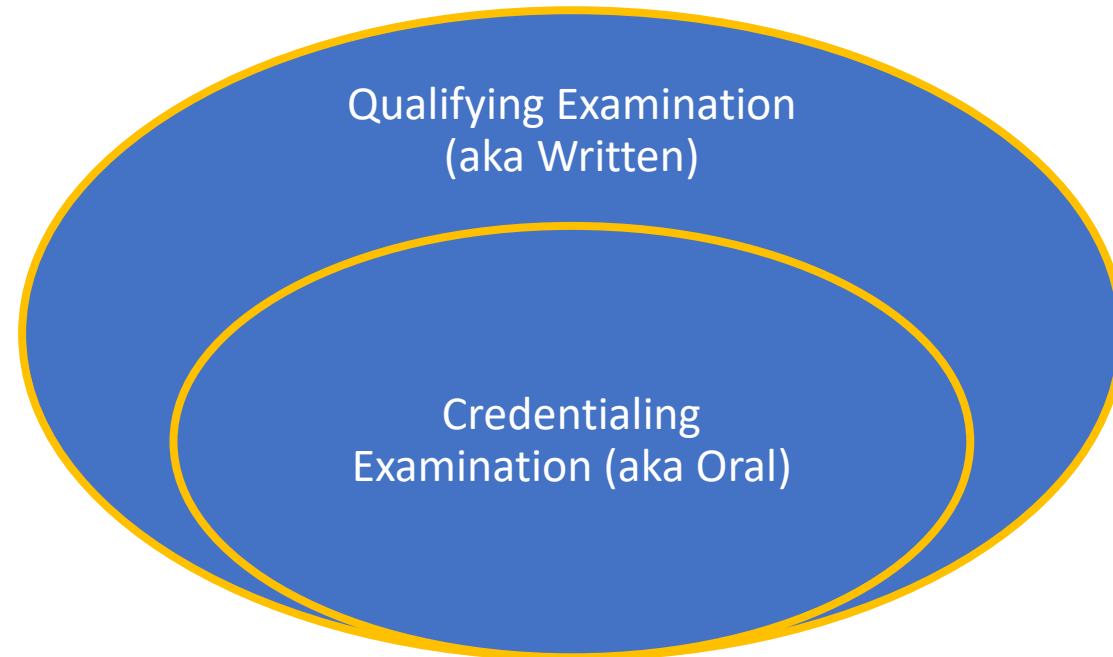
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- Patient Care (*Clinical Decision Making*)
- Interpersonal Communication
- System Based Practice
- Professionalism
- Lifelong Learning



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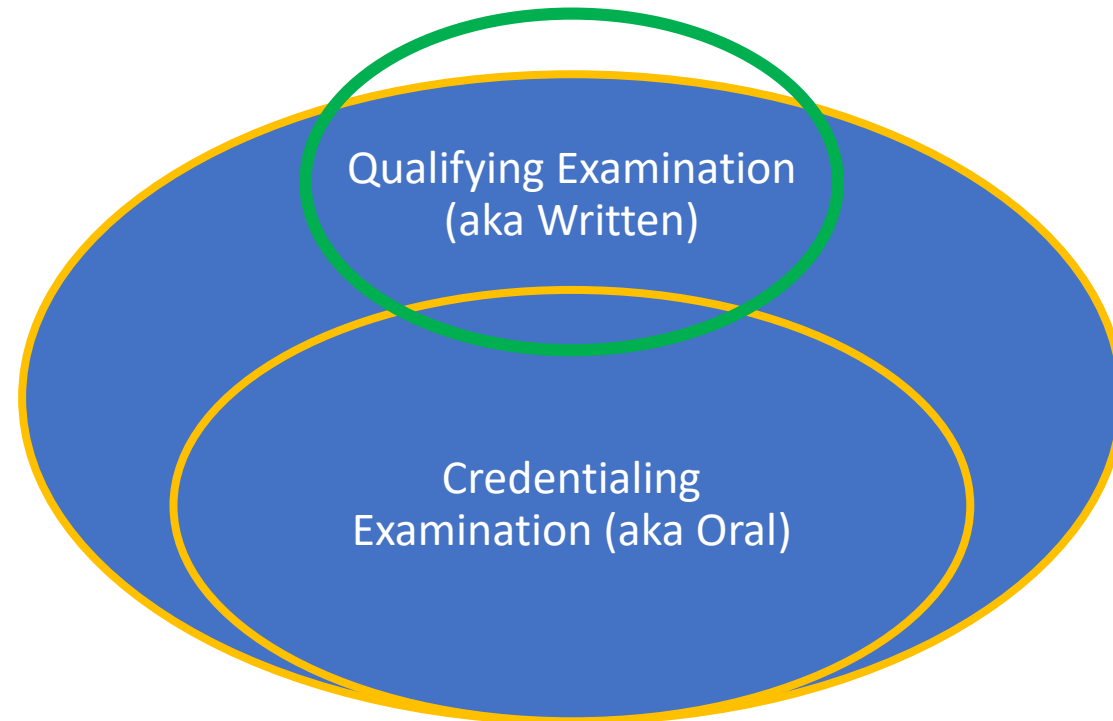
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- 250 Item Exam
 - Administered in two sections of 125 items each
 - Total time for exam is 7 hours
 - Item Format is entirely MCQ
 - 1 correct response
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- Rapid Response Time
- Efficient broad sampling of the construct being assessed

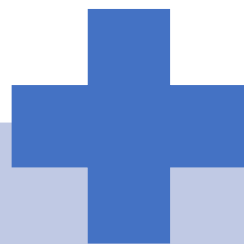
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- Plausible distractors can provide clues
- **Very difficult to construct when assessing Clinical Decision Making**



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There are better options for a written assessment of Clinical Decision Making!



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Key Features Approach

- Validated psychometrically and implemented specifically to assess Clinical Decision Making
 - Medical licensure Exam in Canada
 - MOC for Colorectal Surgeons
 - Numerous final clerkship assessments in Medical Schools in North America
- Leverages items formats that allow multiple answers and minimizes clueing
- Focuses on the “Key Features” of specific clinical problems
 - A KF is
 - A critical decision for the successful resolution of a problem
 - Concurrently a step that is challenging for a borderline candidate

Key Features Approach

- Items are organized around a specific clinical problem or “case”
- 2 to 3 Key Features specific to that case are identified by Subject Matter Experts
- Each “case” will have from 1 to 3 questions assessing the candidates knowledge of those 2-3 Key Features
- Question format can include either:
 - Short Menu multiple choice (15 to 25 items)
 - Write in



Key Features Approach (example)

A 63 yo man developed a chronic cough 3 months ago after what he thought was a cold. A month ago he saw a trace of blood prompting a visit to his PCP. A CXR demonstrated a right lower lobe infiltrate, hilar fullness and blunting of the costophrenic angle. A two week course of abx diminished the cough. No further bleeding episodes. A repeat CXR still shows some hilar fullness and the blunting but a reduction in the infiltrate.

He has a 16 pack year smoking history, quit 12 years ago. Drinks 2-3 beers daily. Works on a farm in Arizona. No other medical problems.

#1. List your 2 most likely diagnoses.

1. _____
2. _____

#2. What tests would you order or perform?
Select up to 3.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. CBC | 10. MRI Brain |
| 2. Lytes | 11. Bronchoscopy |
| 3. Coags | 12. Endoscopic Bronchial Ultrasound |
| 4. Cf DNA | 13. Thoracentesis |
| 5. Sputum culture | 14. Thoracoscopy |
| 6. Sputum cytology | 15. Mediastinoscopy |
| 7. CT chest | 16. Consult Medical Oncology |
| 8. PET/CT | 17. Consult Radiation Oncology |
| 9. CT Brain | 18. Consult Infectious Disease |



Upcoming Qualifying Exam (Dec 2023)

- Key Features cases to be implemented in the Dec 2023 Qualifying Examination (written)
 - Impacts all trainees graduating July 2023 and those who must retake the QE
- Total of 8 Key Feature cases will be added as a third section
 - Published mean response time of 3-4 min/case, we are allowing for up to 9 min/case
 - Will undergo the same psychometric item evaluation all MCQ items receive
 - Will be included in the final grading
- Efforts to minimize anxiety to candidates
 - This presentation
 - Future direct Communications with PD's and PC's
 - Communication with candidates during application for the QE
 - Examples of KF cases displayed on the ABTS website



Questions...

