



## DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

# Short Answer Management Problems (SAMP) Writing Guidelines

Short Answer Management Problems will form the basis for one of your examination days for your CCFP Certification Exam. They should form the core of your studies for your CCFP exam. You will have 6 hours to answer 45-50 SAMPs. For this reason, we have identified SAMP-writing as an important skill to develop during your residency.

SAMPs should be generated as part of your Academic Half Day participation as the presenting resident. They are also required to remediate AHD attendance, should it drop below 75%.

### General Principles

- Your SAMP should be based on patients you and your colleagues are likely to see.
- Your SAMP should be grounded in the 99 Priority Topics and draw upon the Key Features identified by the CFPC .
- SAMP-writing is a scholarly activity and information you use should be drawn from current academic resources.
- Up-to-Date, Toronto Notes and Wikipedia are not appropriate resources.
- All resources must be appropriately referenced. Please review the document on Academic Integrity.

### Step-By-Step Instructions

- Select your topic
- Locate the corresponding topic in the 99 Priority Topic list
- Review the Key Features
- Search the literature for Guidelines, Reviews, Systematic Reviews, Meta-analyses, Research articles; you need a minimum of three references
- Appropriate journals would include: CFP, CMAJ, AFP, BMJ, JAMA, NEJM, primary care research journals...
- Include references at end of SAMP
- Read each article to identify the three or four key concepts of the article.
- Generate a patient problem. This could be either a common presentation or an atypical presentation.



- Develop two scenarios. This should ideally be an initial presentation with a follow-up visit set after a period of time. Alternatively, you could select the same problem with two separate patient scenarios, which expand upon some variability in management.
- Each scenario requires three or four questions, which require evidence-based answers, demonstrate continuity of care and be related to the issues of the case and important concepts from the evidence.
- Your questions should ask for several possible options as answers. Indicate how many answers you need for each questions. Yes/No options generally indicate weak questions. Develop an answer guide for your questions. If you have asked for 3 answers, you should provide 5-6 acceptable answers. If you asked for 4 responses, you should provide 6-8 acceptable answers.
- Please avoid “What am I thinking” questions.
- Please avoid questions that can be answered by reading the scenario.
- Consider including a few confounders in your scenarios, but not so many that it completely distracts your participants.