Editorial

Presidential address: Adoption of clinical skills examination for dental licensing, execution of computer-based testing for the medical licensing examination, and the 30th anniversary of the Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute

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Changes and attempts

In the year 2021, there were many changes and attempts for the licensing examinations by the Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute (KHPLEI):

First, there was the adoption of clinical skills examination for the Korean dental licensing examination in 2021, as announced before [1], which was conducted without any difficulties due to preparation for several years. Although there was already a clinical skills examination for the medical licensing examination, it is markedly different in the content of clinical skills. This clinical skill examination will be continued to improve the clinical competency of dentists.

Second, the clinical skill test items of the 86th Korean medical licensing examination 2021 were changed to focus on clinical presentations by reducing the number of manual clinical skill stations from 6 to 1. There were 12 stations which consisted of 6 patient encounter and 6 manual clinical skill stations. Those stations were reduced to 10, consisting of 9 patient encounter and 1 manual clinical skill station. On 9 patient encounter stations, manual clinical skill may be added. Also, the 54 presentations for patient encounter and 32 items for manual clinical skill were reduced to 48 clinical presentations for patient encounter and 9 items for manual clinical skill. The revised basic 48 clinical presentations were as follows: chest pain, family violence/sexual violence, hemoptysis, convulsion, hypertension, joint pain/swelling, vomiting, sarcopenia/paresthesia, mood change, memory loss, cough, breaking the bad news, palpitations, headache, tremor/dyskinesia, neck/back pain, substance misuse, fever,
dysuria, abnormal bowel movements (constipation/diarrhea), abdominal colic, anxiety, hematuria, prenatal examination, delayed growth/development, changes in urine output (polyuria/oliguria), indigestion, sleep disorder, bruise easily occurred, faint, dizziness, vaccination, dysmenorrhea/menorrhagia, breast pain/breast lumps (bulges), alcohol/smoking counseling, consciousness disorder, dyslipidemia, intentional self-harm, vaginal discharge/vaginal bleeding, weight loss, weight gain/obesity, runny nose/stuffy nose, hemoptysis, fatigue, skin rash, blood stool, shortness of breath, and jaundice.

Nine basic skill items were as follows: basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cardiac shock therapy, and endotracheal intubation for the first aid; wound dressing (wound disinfection) /burn dressing, local anesthesia, and sutures for wound care; intravenous injection/safe transfusion skill, vein blood collection/blood collection for blood culture, and arterial blood puncture for collecting blood and securing blood vessels.

Third, computer-based testing (CBT) was adopted for the 86th medical licensing examination on January 6-7, 2022, instead of 70 years of paper and pencil testing, which was first implemented in 1952 (Fig. 1). Testing was done without interruption at 16 places: 6 in Seoul, 2 in Busan, 2 in Daegu, 2 in Gwangju, 2 in Daejeon, and 2 in Jeonju. The number of items was 320. One test hour was 105 minutes for every 80 items. Each day, 160 items were provided to examinees. CBT was already well-trained in all medical schools, and there were mock CBTs for examinees. Therefore, it is believed that the examinees did not complain of any difficulties. Research on the appropriate item number in the CBT medical licensing examination has been done to reduce item numbers without losing the validity and reliability of the examinations. Therefore, there may be a change in the item number of CBT. In 2023, CBT will be extended to dental and oriental doctor licensing examinations. Furthermore, the all other health professions' licensing examinations will be target of CBT up to 2025. Therefore, for more efficient management, KHPLEI is going to establish its own CBT sites in several cities in 2022 [2].
Fourth, the care-worker licensing examination will be reorganized into a continuous test system year-round soon, where anyone can take the test on the examinee's desired date. The establishment of CBT has been prepared for this system. The number of passers was 65,901 (92.1%) out of 71,555 applicants in 2021. It is not easy to manage this number of examinees simultaneously. Therefore, the adoption of CBT is urgent for care-worker licensing examination.

The 30th anniversary of the Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute

The year 2022 is the 30th anniversary of the KHPLEI, which was established on April 20, 1992, as the National Medical Licensing Examination Board of Korea. The first president was the late Dr. Moon Ho Lee (1922-2004), former professor of internal medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine (Figs. 2, 3). Its title changed to the National Health Personnel Licensing Examination Board (NHPLEB) of Korea on May 4, 1998, after merging the government’s department in charge of all other health personnel licensing examinations in Korea.

The late Dr. Lee also continued to work as the first president of the National Health Personnel Licensing Examination Board until May 7, 2001. After that 5 medical doctors served presidency: 2nd Dr. Sang-Ho Baik (May 8, 2001- May 7, 2004) [3], 3rd, and 4th Moon-Shik Kim (May 8, 2004- June 25, 2009), 5th Kun Sang Kim [4] (August 1, 2009- July 31, 2012), 6th Myung-Hyun Chung [5] (August 1, 2012- July 31, 2015), 7th Chang-Hwi Kim [6] (December 23, 2015- April 21, 2019). The present title of the institute was renamed on December 23, 2015, after becoming a public organization supported by the Korean government [7]. I believe that the established work for 30 years was marvelous. Without those previous presidents’ leadership and devotion, it is not possible to present institute’s position. Some results were presented in the official journal, Journal of Educational Evaluation for Health Professions (JEEHP). I hope to share the management experience of
26 health profession licensing examinations with other countries’ specialists because this integrative model is not easily seen except in a few countries, including Taiwan and Australia. If anyone is interested in KHPLEI’s work, my staff and I may help them. The 30\textsuperscript{th}-anniversary symposium will be held in Seoul in mid-May 2022. This event will be open both face-to-face and online. Main topic is the “30-year history of KHPLEI and its future development”. I hope many health professionals interested in licensing examinations attend the symposium, even online.

\textbf{Wish safety during the 3\textsuperscript{rd} year of the COVID-19 pandemic}

The year 2022 is also the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, there was no COVID-19 infection at the licensing examinations stations in 2020 and 2021 due to vigorous quarantine measures by the staff of KHPLEI [1]. This year, I will make every effort to provide examinees and proctors with a safe environment. Furthermore, I will keep pace with the changing health professional licensing examination trends. In New Year 2022, I wish all submitters, reviewers, and readers who visit JEEHP a year full of health and happiness.

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\textbf{Authors’ contributions}

YSL did all work.

\textbf{Conflict of interest}

Yoon-Seong Lee has been the 8th president of the Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination
Institute since April 22, 2019; otherwise, no potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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**Data availability**

None.

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None.

**Supplementary materials**

None.

**References**


4. Kim KS. President's address: 20 years of perspiration and 20 years of admiration. J Educ Eval


Explanation for figures
Fig. 1. Dr. Yoon Seong Lee, president of the Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute, was looking around examinees at the computer-based testing site of the 86th Korean medical licensing examination in Seoul, January 7, 2022. The photo was kindly donated by the Doctors News. © Korea Medical Association.

Fig. 2. A signboard ceremony of the National Medical Licensing Examination Board of Korea held at the front of the Korean Medical Association building, Seoul, Korea, on May 16, 1992. Critical persons who celebrated this opening were, from right lateral to left lateral: Gab-Soo Han
Fig. 3. The opening ceremony of the National Medical Licensing Examination Board of Korea held in the meeting room on the 5th-floor of the Korean Medical Association building, Seoul, Korea, on May 16, 1992. The photo was kindly provided by the Doctors News. © Korea Medical Association.