



# CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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**JOHANNESBURG OFFICE**  
**EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS**

**January 2022**

## **R E G U L A T I O N S**

### **FOR ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF SOUTH AFRICA IN CLINICAL VIROLOGY**

#### **FC Path(SA) Viro**

#### **1. Components**

The examination comprises Part I and Part II. Part II must be passed within six years of passing the Part I.

#### **2. Purpose of Assessment**

The aim of this assessment is to evaluate if the candidate who has completed the minimum training period, has acquired the appropriate professional knowledge, skills and attitude stipulated by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) training requirements and standards in order to be licensed by the HPCSA as a practitioner of Virology at specialist level. This assessment is one of two parts of the HPCSA requirement for registration as a specialist Virologist. The other part of the registration requirement is assessment of a research report by the host University.

#### **3. Admission to the Examination**

##### **3.1 Part I**

A candidate may be admitted to Part I of the examination having:

- 3.1.1 Obtained a post-community service/internship qualification to practice medicine which is registered with the HPCSA
- 3.1.2 Completed twelve (12) months fulltime post-community service/internship training as a registrar in an accredited teaching hospital department of Virology at the time of applying to enter for the Part I. The Part I examination will be implemented from January 2021 and may apply to registrars commencing training from January 2020. Deviation from this requirement may be considered under special circumstances.

##### **3.2 Part II**

A candidate may be admitted to Part II of the examination having

- 3.2.1 Obtained a post-community service/internship qualification to practice medicine which is registered with the HPCSA
- 3.2.2 Completed Part I of the FCPath(SA) Virology examination. This will apply from January 2021. Exemptions to Part I may be considered on the basis of having completed a Part I equivalent examination acceptable to the College of Pathologists.

3.2.3 Completed three and a half (3½) years (42 months) of fulltime post-community service/internship training as a Virology Registrar in an accredited teaching and training hospital/institution at the time of the application for the written examination.

3.3. The submission of your Portfolio of Evidence (Annexure 2) of Work Integrated Learning at the time of making your application to write the examination is compulsory for all candidates. Your Portfolio must reflect satisfactory and consistent evidence of Work Integrated Learning and Work Based Assessment.

#### **4. Curriculum**

The theory, principles and practice of clinical Virology and the different laboratory procedures used in the investigation of viral diseases is described in detail in in Annexure 1.

#### **5. Format of the Examination**

5.1 The Part I examination will consist of a written examination with a pass mark of 50%. The examination will consist of two written papers, each paper being three hours in duration. The sub-minimum for each Paper is 50%. Each Paper will consist of a mixture of Very Short Answer Questions (VSAQs) and/or Single Best Answer (SBA) MCQs (at least 60%) totaling 120 marks.

5.2 The Part 2 examination will consist of two written papers, each paper being three hours in duration and a two-day practical examination. The sub-minimum for each Paper is 50%. The examination has a pass mark of 50%. The Written Examination will consist of two 3-hour closed-book written examination papers. The sub-minimum for each Paper is 50%. Each Paper will consist of a mixture of SBA MCQs or VSAQs totaling 120 marks.

##### **5.3 Written Examination Blueprint**

The written examination Blueprint (Annexure 3) is based on scoring each selected item from the Curriculum according to its Relevance and Implication (Box 1 and 2, Annexure 3). Not all Curriculum items are assessed in Part 1 and 2 written examinations since certain items are assessed using Work Based Assessment which contributes to the Portfolio.

The Blueprint in Annexure 3 serves to focus and ring fence topics for reading specifically for the scope of the written examination. A reading list will be made available through the CMSA website.

However, all topics in the curriculum will be assessed during the training in various forms of Work Based Assessment.

##### **5.4 Practical Examination**

The practical examination (OSPE Format) will be done over 2 days scheduled as morning and afternoon sessions on each day. The subminimum for each of the practical sessions is 50%.

##### **5.5 Examination Weighting**

	Written Examination		Practical
	Paper 1	Paper 2	
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>	None
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>60%</b>

**6. Interim Arrangements**

- 6.1 All Registrars who joined the program from January 2021 are expected to write the CMSA Part 1 Examination. Registrars who joined the program prior to January 2021 can write the host University MMed Part 1 Examination until one year after this CMSA policy comes into effect.
- 6.2 The Written Examination Format from 2022 will consist of a mixture of Short Answer Questions (SAQs), Single Best Answer (SBA) Questions and Very Short Answer Questions (VSAQs). SAQs are five marks each, SBAs and VSAQs are one mark each. Thereafter, SAQs will be phased out over the next two to three years. There is no negative marking.
- 6.3 The Portfolio (Annexure 2) must be submitted (see 3.3) as Work Based Assessment, which will have a mark allocation as a pre-requisite to the Part 2 examinations. Annexure 2 will apply to all Registrars with effective from January 2021.
- 6.4 Candidates will be notified of any changes in rules regarding Portfolios and written and practical examination formats, in advance of each examination through Memos from CMSA.

7 ADMISSION AS A FELLOW

- 7.1 Only candidates who have completed training in a CMSA recognised registrar post may be awarded a fellowship if successful in the examination.
- 7.2 **Candidates who have written the examination as a prerequisite from the HPCSA for inclusion on the specialist register are not eligible to be awarded a Fellowship but will be sent a letter confirming their success in the examinations**

All other candidates will be asked to sign a declaration as below:

I, the undersigned, ..... do solemnly and sincerely declare that while a member of the CMSA I will at all times do all within my power to promote the objects of the CMSA and uphold the dignity of the CMSA and its members

that I will observe the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, By-laws, Regulations and Code of Ethics of the CMSA as in force from time to time

that I will obey every lawful summons issued by order of the Senate of the said CMSA, having no reasonable excuse to the contrary

and I make this solemn declaration faithfully promising to adhere to its terms

Signed at ..... this ..... day of

..... 20 .....

Signature .....

Witness .....

(who must be a Founder, Associate Founder, Fellow, Member, Diplomate or Commissioner of Oaths)

- 7.3 A two-thirds majority of members of the CMSA Senate present at the relevant meeting shall be necessary for the award to any candidate of a Fellowship
- 7.4 A Fellow shall be entitled to the appropriate form of certificate under the seal of the CMSA
- 7.5 In the event of a candidate not being awarded the Fellowship (after having passed the examination) the examination fee shall be refunded in full
- 7.6 The first annual subscription is due one year after registration (statements are rendered annually)

**A N N E X U R E A**

[https://www.cmsa.co.za/view\\_exam.aspx?QualificationID=27](https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=27)

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**ANNEXURE C**

[https://www.cmsa.co.za/view\\_exam.aspx?QualificationID=27](https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=27)

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