



CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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**JOHANNESBURG
ACADEMIC OFFICE**

November 2017

THE COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

R E G U L A T I O N S

FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION FOR THE POST-SPECIALISATION

SUB-SPECIALTY CERTIFICATE

IN

CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY

Cert Clin Haematology(SA)

1.0 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The candidate who enters this examination must be competent to practice as a specialist pathologist in the subspeciality of clinical **haematology**.
- 1.2 In addition to passing this examination, persons wishing to register as **specialist clinical haematologists** must also fulfil the relevant requirements of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Services Act.

2.0 ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

(to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

- 2.1 The following are the requirements for admission to the examination:
 - 2.1.1 the candidate must be registered or be registerable as a pathologist (haematology).
 - 2.1.2 the candidate must have completed at least eighteen months of full-time sub-specialist training as a trainee in the subspeciality.
- 2.2 The CMSA Senate through its Examinations and Credentials Committee, will review every application for admission to the examination, and may also review and take into account the professional and ethical standing of the candidate. For this purpose a candidate's application to take the examination has to be supported by a written report from the head of his/her clinical haematology training unit/division.

3.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING

See Appendix A

4.0 FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

See Appendix B

**JOHANNESBURG
November 2017**

APPENDIX A

1.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING

This document details the curricula set by the ad hoc committee of the South African Society for Haematology (SASH) as the standard of training required for persons wishing to register as clinical haematologists. The curricula are based on the recommendations of the International Society of Haematology.

1.1 What is a clinical haematologist ?

The Medical and Dental Professional Board of the Health Professions Council of South Africa created the new subspecialty of clinical haematology in response to SASH's request to unify the laboratory and clinical aspects of haematology. A paediatrician or physician can enter the subspecialty by training in mainly laboratory haematology for two years and passing the appropriate examinations. A haematological pathologist can enter the subspecialty of clinical haematology after training in paediatric or adult haematology for two years and passing the appropriate examinations. The sequence of training is not relevant.

1.1.1 Clinical haematologists with the primary speciality of pathology (haematological) and who undertook subspecialty training in paediatric clinical haematology

Such a person will do mainly laboratory work, but may also treat children within the scope of his/her training.

1.1.2 Clinical haematologists with the primary speciality of pathology (haematological) and who undertook subspecialty training in adult clinical haematology

Such a person will do laboratory work and also treat adults within the scope of his/her training.

1.2 Composition of the course

1.2.1 Syllabus for the clinical haematology (one year)

Depending on the choice of the trainee this will be done in an adult or paediatric clinical haematology unit/division.

1.2.1.1 Spectrum of haematological diseases

- Deficiency anaemias
- Disorders of haemoglobin structure
- Haemolytic structure
- Aplastic anaemia
- Haematological malignancies: leukaemias and lymphomas (all aspects of management, including bone marrow transplantation)
- Congenital and acquired bleeding disorders
- Thromboembolic disorders and anticoagulation
- Transfusion medicine
- Haematological problems associated with perinatal care; intensive care; renal medicine, organ transplantation, orthopaedic and vascular surgery (in adults). Liaison with a wide variety of departments is encouraged

1.2.2 Syllabus for additional experience (for one year)

1.2.2.1 Paediatrics or internal medicine (for at least six months)

1.2.2.1.1 Paediatrics

Competency in treating common paediatric disorders is required. This includes the ability to manage cardiovascular, respiratory, infectious and metabolic conditions complicating haematological disorders. Depending on the trainee's interests rotations through divisions like Intensive Care and Infectious Diseases can be arranged.

1.2.2.1.2 Internal Medicine

Competency in treating common medical disorders is required. This includes the ability to manage cardiovascular, respiratory, infectious and metabolic conditions complicating haematological disorders. Depending on the trainee's interests rotations through divisions like Intensive Care and Infectious Diseases can be arranged.

- 1.2.2.2 **Radiation/medical oncology (for not more than six months)**
The trainee needs enough exposure to combined clinics and other forms of co-operation to be able to refer a patient appropriately.

1.3 Curriculum

1.3.1 Knowledge and practice of clinical haematology

It is expected that completion of the curriculum will result in demonstrable competence at consultant level in the following areas. Paediatricians will concentrate on paediatric conditions and patients, while physicians will concentrate on adult conditions and patients.

1.3.1.1 Clinical contact with the patient

This will require the trainee to be able to take a history and perform a clinical examination of a patient with a haematological disorder

1.3.1.2 Diagnostic evaluation

This will require that the trainee will be able to clinically evaluate the spectrum of haematological disorders mentioned under 3.2.2.1. He/she must be able to order the appropriate diagnostic investigations for any given haematological disorder

1.3.1.3 Therapeutic decision making

This will firstly require the correct interpretation of the history, clinical signs, and diagnostic investigations. Secondly it will involve therapeutic decision making in the light of the patient's situation

1.3.1.4 Knowledge of haematological diseases

This will require a thorough knowledge of all aspects, including epidemiology, aetiology, pathogenesis, pathology, clinical features and management of all conditions mentioned in Appendix A

1.3.1.5 Understand the pharmacology of drugs used in haematological diseases

This will require knowledge of drugs used to treat deficiency anaemias, immunosuppressive drugs, cytostatic drugs, biological products used in haematological diseases, antithrombin drugs and drugs used to treat haemorrhagic diatheses

1.3.1.6 Knowledge of the use of blood products in haematological disorders

This will require knowledge of transfusion medicine and the rational use of blood products and components in the whole spectrum of haematological conditions. It will also require the ability to advise other disciplines on the rational use of blood products

1.3.1.7 Haematological emergencies

Special emphasis needs to be placed on haematological emergencies like autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, leucostasis, haemophilia and other haemorrhagic diatheses

1.3.1.8 Appreciate the role of patient education and staff management in haematological conditions

This will require knowledge of patient education in haematological conditions and the concept of team approach to patient management

1.3.1.9 Liaison with other disciplines

This will require knowledge of the applications of other medical specialities in the management of haematological conditions. Examples of these include surgery, radiation oncology, intensive care and infectious disease services

1.3.2 Special Skills

1.3.2.1 Bone marrow aspiration and biopsy

The trainee will be required to be competent at aspirating bone marrow and performing bone marrow trephine biopsies

1.3.2.2 Safe handling of cytotoxic drugs

The trainee will be required to be competent at safely preparing and administering cytotoxic drugs

1.3.2.3 Apheresis

The trainee will be required to be able to manage the various forms of apheresis (in adults)

1.3.2.4 Bone marrow and peripheral stem cell transplantation

These procedures are not available at all centres. The trainee must have had a year's experience in these techniques before performing them independently. This is in line with the guidelines of the European Bone Marrow Transplantation Society. The candidate is expected to have an adequate knowledge of the procedure for the examination as it is examinable.

1.3.2.5 Counselling and communication skills

The trainee should maintain good ethical standards with an empathetic approach to patients and their families. The trainee should be able to counsel patients, their families and staff

APPENDIX B

1.0 FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

1.1 Evaluation of Competence

1.1.1 Evaluation of overall competence of the trainee will be based on:

- a) an appraisal by the Educational Supervisor
- b) an examination under the auspices of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, which will be held twice a year

The examination will comprise a written paper, clinical cases, laboratory practical examination and an oral examination, which may cover any aspects of clinical haematology outlined in the curriculum and which may be taken after a minimum training period of 18 months.

1.1.2 There will be at least 2 examiners for each examination, of whom at least 1 will be a registered clinical haematologist

1.1.3 Upon award of the Certificate, the trainee may apply to the Health Professions Council of South Africa for subspeciality registration.

1.2 Accreditation and Registration of Training Centre

Approval and registration of clinical haematology training units/centres/divisions will be considered jointly by the Health Professions Council of South Africa and South African Society for Haematology

The following aspects will be considered in the evaluation of a training centre:

- a) qualifications of the Educational Supervisor, who should be a registered clinical haematologist;
- b) the case load and spectrum of haematological cases managed and
- c) the spectrum of haematological laboratory investigations offered

1.3 Carry over of written examination

A candidate who has been invited to the clinical examination and fails the oral aspect of the examination, shall be allowed to re-do ONLY THE ORAL AND CLINICAL ASPECT AT THE NEXT EXAMINATION (without re-writing the written aspect of the examination)

The carry-over of the written examination is allowed only once ie for the next examination only. Should the candidate fail the oral and Clinical examination again, then the candidate must re-write the full examination at their next attempt.

Written examination carry-over applies with immediate effect according to the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa Senate meeting held on the 26 October 2017.