



# CMSA

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**JOHANNESBURG  
ACADEMIC OFFICE**

**August 2020**

**THE COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

**FOR THE FS 2020 MODIFIED CLINICAL/PRACTICAL/ORAL EXAMINATIONS**

**FOR THE POST-SPECIALISATION**

**SUB-SPECIALTY CERTIFICATE**

**IN**

**CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY**

**Cert Clin Haematology(SA) Path**

**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

**August 2020**

**A P P E N D I X 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 subspeciality 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 subspeciality 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.../

**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.../

**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.../

**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

**A P P E N D I X 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.

**2.0 CONDUCT OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION –  
EFFECTIVE FOR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2020**

2.1 A written paper.

2.2 A modified clinical/practical/oral examination will be conducted in the form of a practical (microscope-based) Assessment of Competence (AoC), three written online examinations and two Zoom-based Structured Oral Examinations.

2.2.1 Candidates will engage in an Assessment of Competence (Paper 1) at the venues listed on the timetable. Format of the AoC:

- Each candidate will review the morphology on 10 glass slides and answer questions that are specific to each slide.
- Duration of examination: 150 minutes in total (and an additional 40 minutes allowed for typing).
- Candidates will answer using electronic online examination scripts with typed text responses.

2.2.2 Candidates will engage in three written online examinations at the venues listed on the timetable. Format of the written examinations:

- Duration of each examination: 2 hours (additional 30 minutes allowed for typing per examination).
- Content of each examination:
  - Paper 2: Flow cytometry, cytogenetics and molecular genetics
  - Paper 3: Coagulation
  - Paper 4: Special haematology and blood transfusion
- PowerPoint slides will be used to present the examination material.
- The examination material may include case histories and test results, still images, photos and diagrams.
- Candidates will answer using electronic online examination scripts, with typed text responses.

### 2.2.3 Format of the Structured Oral Examinations:

- Number of stations: 5, which included 4 paper case-based stations and 1 oral/verbal station (viva).
- Duration of stations: 30 minutes each.
- The examination material may include case histories and test results, still images, photos, diagrams and radiology imaging.

### 2.3 WEIGHTING OF THE EXAMINATION FOR THE CERT CLIN HAEMATOLOGY(SA)

- Written Paper (50%)
- Clinical/practical/oral Examination (50%)

50% of the mark will be obtained from the written examination. The remaining 50% will be derived from the modified clinical/practical/oral examination. The modified clinical/practical/oral examination (100% divided by 2 to get 50%), will comprise the following: i) Practical/Laboratory Assessment of Competence and three written examinations which collectively contribute 45%, ii) Case-based SOE which contributes 45% and a iii) topic-based SOE which contributes 10%. Each of the 3 components of the modified clinical/practical/oral examination needs to be passed independently with a subminimum mark of 50%. A score of 50% or more overall will be deemed a pass score.

### 3. 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