



C M S A

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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JOHANNESBURG OFFICE
EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS
ACADEMIC OFFICE

Website: www.cmsa.co.za
General: Academic.Registrar@cmsa.co.za

July 2020

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

FOR THE FS 2020 MODIFIED CLINICAL/PRACTICAL/ORAL EXAMINATIONS

OF THE

SUB-SPECIALTY CERTIFICATE

IN

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Cert Medical Oncology(SA)

1.0 ELIGIBILITY TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION

In order to be eligible to enter for this examination, the candidate:-

- 1.1 must comply with the requirements for registration as a medical practitioner, as prescribed by the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Services Act.
- 1.2 must be registered as a specialist Paediatrician

2.0 ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

(to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

The following are the requirements for admission to the examination:

- 2.1 registration as a specialist Paediatrician
- 2.2 certification of having completed at least 18 months as a subspecialty trainee in an accredited paediatric medical oncology unit in a teaching hospital, registered and approved by the Health Professions Council of South Africa
- 2.3 submission of a written report from the head of the institution/programme in which he or she trained indicating satisfactory completion of all training requirements
- 2.4 submission of a satisfactorily completed logbook
- 2.5 Training is valid for a period of three years from the date of completion in a numbered subspecialty training post. Candidates who do not successfully complete the subspecialty examination within the period must motivate with support from their HOD to the College of Paediatricians for a once off extension.
- 2.6 presentation or acceptance for presentation of an original first author research poster or paper at a local or international congress OR submission or acceptance for publication of an original first or co-authored manuscript in a peer reviewed journal.
- 2.7 certification of an elective attachment of at least one week to a bone marrow transplant unit or a haematology laboratory service.

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2.7 certification of an elective attachment of at least one week to a radiation oncology unit.

3.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING

See Appendix A

4.0 FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

See Appendix B

5.0 LOGBOOK

See Appendix C

APPENDIX A**1.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING (all specifically related to childhood cancer)****1.1 Paediatric Oncology Curriculum – General Principles**

- 1.1.1 General principles of epidemiology
- 1.1.2 Application of molecular biology in childhood cancer and related illnesses
- 1.1.3 Genetic and environmental factors in childhood cancer
- 1.1.4 The haemopoietic system with special reference to stem cell, marrow turnover and haemopoietic growth factors
- 1.1.5 Basic tumour biology: immunology
 tumour kinetics
 growth factors
 oncogenes
- 1.1.6 Pathology relevant to clinical practise
- 1.1.7 Tumour imaging
- 1.1.8 Principles of staging
- 1.1.9 Principles of chemotherapy
- 1.1.10 The role of surgery in cancer treatment
- 1.1.11 Basic principles of radiation treatment and the role of radiation therapy in cancer treatment
- 1.1.12 Bone marrow transplantation, stem cell rescue and cord blood transplants
- 1.1.13 Statistical principles, methods of research and conduct of clinical trials
- 1.1.14 Ethics of cancer treatment and clinical trials

1.2 A comprehensive approach to diagnosis and management of specific tumour types:

- 1.2.1 Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia
- 1.2.2 Acute non lymphoblastic leukaemias
- 1.2.3 Non Hodgkin lymphoma
- 1.2.4 Hodgkin lymphoma
- 1.2.5 Chronic leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes in childhood
- 1.2.6 Central nervous system tumours
- 1.2.7 Wilms' tumour and other renal malignancies occurring in childhood
- 1.2.8 Neuroblastoma
- 1.2.9 Hepatoblastoma and other liver malignancies occurring in childhood
- 1.2.10 Rhabdomyosarcoma and other soft tissue sarcomas
- 1.2.11 Osteogenic sarcoma
- 1.2.12 Ewing's sarcoma
- 1.2.13 Peripheral neuroectodermal tumours
- 1.2.14 Retinoblastoma
- 1.2.15 Germ cell tumours
- 1.2.16 Endocrine tumours
- 1.2.17 Histiocytic syndromes including Langerhans cell and familial histiocytosis
- 1.2.18 AIDS and childhood cancer

1.3 Supportive Care of Children with Cancer

- 1.3.1 Oncologic emergencies – SVC syndrome, cord compression, endocrine and metabolic disturbances
- 1.3.2 Haematologic supportive care
- 1.3.3 Infectious complications and their management
- 1.3.4 Nutrition in the child on cancer treatment
- 1.3.5 Principles of psychosocial support for the patient and family
- 1.3.6 Anti-emetic therapy
- 1.3.7 Pain control
- 1.3.8 Palliative/terminal care
- 1.3.9 Late effects of childhood cancer and its treatment
- 1.3.10 Effective use of resources

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 Head of Unit/Division/Department of the institution where training was undertaken
- b) an examination under the auspices of the CMSA

2.0 PORTFOLIO

2.1 A portfolio/logbook is a mandatory requirement for entry to the examination.

2.2 The portfolio for the sub-specialty is attached (Appendix C).

2.3 The portfolio includes six-monthly formative assessments (as a minimum) made by the supervisor/divisional head, which is to be signed by both candidate and trainer. These assessments should, however, be kept confidential and should not be submitted to the CMSA.

2.4 Each candidate will be expected to submit their portfolio/logbook to the CMSA by 15 January or 15 June of each year (for the relevant examination).

2.5 Portfolios are viewed by the HOD and satisfactory performance must be indicated in their letter to the CMSA

3.0 EXAMINATION CONVENORS

3.1 A list of potential convenors will be requested from the South African Children's Cancer Study Group at the College of Paediatricians' (hereafter referred to as the "College") discretion.

3.2 The College will select convenors for each examination.

3.3 In the case of a convenor from each examining centre not being represented on the convenors' list submitted by a group or society, the College Council may at its discretion appoint a convenor from another centre for a particular examination.

4.0 CONVENOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Convenor will:

4.1 Recommend an examiner's panel from the approved list of examiners supplied by the College.

4.2 Be sensitive to the following issues in selecting examiners:

4.2.1 Rotation of examiners (representation from different centres)

4.2.2 Exposure of junior sub-specialists (new examiners)

4.2.3 Representation from different centres in South Africa (must have representation from three different centres, except in exceptional circumstances)

4.2.4 The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA's) transformation goals.

4.3 Forward the recommended examiners' panel to the College for approval

4.4 Recommend a moderator for the examination to the College.

4.5 Forward a copy of the draft written paper to the College for review by the moderator.

4.6 Submit a written report to the College Council after each examination outlining the conduct of the examination, marks achieved, success rates, problems identified and recommendations for future examinations. This report will also be sent to the Head of each training centre and the CMSA Examinations office.

5.0 EXAMINER SELECTION

5.1 Examiners will be appointed by the College following recommendation by the convenor.

5.2 A Certificate examiner must be registered with the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as a sub-specialist and should be at least two years post his or her certification examination or registration as a sub-specialist.

5.3 Use of a non-specialist examiner or one from an allied subspecialty must be motivated for in writing to the College.

5.4 The examination panel will consist of three examiners, including the convenor. This number of examiners is considered fair to the needs of the candidate and the CMSA.

- 5.5 Any request to alter the examiner numbers for an individual examination must be motivated in writing to the College.
- 5.6 The written and oral/OSCE examinations will be conducted by the same set of examiners.
- 5.7 An examiner will not necessarily be excluded if he/she is the trainer/supervisor of the candidate.
- 5.8 Ideally no more than one examiner will be chosen from any single centre in South Africa for each examination.
- 5.9 The selection of Certificate examiners will be independent of the FC Paed(SA) Part II examiner selection process.
- 5.10 Whenever possible the same examiner should not be involved in a Certificate examination and a FC Paed(SA) Part II examination simultaneously.
- 5.11 The CMSA Academic Office will be responsible for notifying examiners about their selection for an individual examination.

6.0 MODERATORS

- 6.1 In order to adhere to CMSA standards and for quality assurance, a process of 'moderation' of each examination is considered necessary.
- 6.2 A moderator shall be appointed by the College for the Certificate examination. This individual will ideally be a senior member of the sub-specialty.
- 6.3 Prior to the conduct of the written examination, the moderator will check that the examination questions and marking memorandum reflect a fair spread of the curriculum (reliability), match the curriculum (validity), and that the mark allocation of the questions is fair and appropriate.
- 6.4 The moderator will complete a report and return this to the College and the CMSA at the end of each examination. The College will formally review the report.

7.0 STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

- 7.1 The Certificate examination has two components:
 - a) A written component
 - b) A structured oral component.
- 7.2 Each of the two components contributes 50% to the overall mark
- 7.3 The pass mark for the overall exam is 50%.
- 7.4 A sub-minimum pass mark of 50% is expected for each of the two (written and the structured oral) components of the examination.
- 7.5 There is no sub-minima for individual papers, questions or sub-sections of the structured oral examination.

8.0 EXAMINATION CENTRE

- 8.1 Candidates will engage in an electronic (Zoom-based) Structured Oral Examination at the venues listed on the timetable.

9.0 WRITTEN EXAMINATION

- 9.1 Certificate examinations will comprise of two three-hour written papers.
Paper I will consist of 4 long questions or scenarios (may contain sub-parts), worth 25 marks each (each examiner shall submit 2 such questions to the Convenor).
Paper II will consist of 10 short questions, worth 10 marks each (each examiner to submit 5 such questions to the Convenor).
- 9.2 A marking memorandum – a basic outline to the expected answer - will be provided, by each examiner at the time of question acceptance, including an indication of the allocation of marks for each section/part answer.
- 9.3 The language of written papers will follow College recommendations.

10.0 STRUCTURED ORAL COMPONENT

A modified clinical/practical/oral exam will be conducted in the form of a Structured Oral Examinations

- 10.1 Number of stations: 3
- 10.2 Duration of each station: 20 minutes
- 10.3 Examination material: will include case histories with test results and radiology imaging
- 10.4 Examination format: the examination material will be presented as PowerPoint slides
- 10.5 Examination process: the examination will be conducted remotely using Zoom

10.6 Marking of the practical examination:

- A Score of 50% or more will be deemed a pass score for each component of the examination.
- A memorandum with mark allocation will be used for each component of the examination.
- The marks for the Structured Oral Examination will be combined to obtain an average score.
- The final mark will consist of
 - Written examination: Paper 1 and 2 50%
 - Structured oral exam 50%

11.0 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COLLEGE IN THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

- 11.1 Selection of Convenors, Examiners, and Moderators.
- 11.2 Monitoring of the conduct of each Certificate examination.
- 11.3 Reviewing all aspects of each examination on completion.
- 11.4 Tracking performance and success rates in individual examinations.

12.0 APPEALS PROCESS

- 12.1 The CMSA has an appeals process that will be followed.

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