



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

**C M S A**

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

Nonprofit Company (Reg No.1955/000003/08)  
Nonprofit Organisation (Reg. No. 009-874 NPO)  
Vat No. 4210273191

27 Rhodes Avenue, PARKTOWN WEST, 2193

Tel: +27 11 726 7037; Fax: +27 11 726 4036

Website: [www.cmsa.co.za](http://www.cmsa.co.za)

General: [Academic.Registrar@cmsa.co.za](mailto:Academic.Registrar@cmsa.co.za)

**March 2022**

**THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS 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**

**NEPHROLOGY**  
**Cert Nephrology(SA) Phys**

**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 Physician

**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 Physician
- 2.2 certification of having completed at least eighteen months as a subspecialty trainee in accredited specialist department(s) / division(s) / unit(s) of nephrology, registered and approved by the Health Professions Council of South Africa.
- 2.3 submission of the prescribed logbook, filled in up to date, and certified by the head(s) of the department(s)/division(s)/unit(s) in which the candidate trained.
- 2.4 a written report/written reports from the head/s of nephrology in the institution/s in which he or she trained.
- 2.5 An application for registration to the subspecialty of Nephrology in South Africa will only be considered once the applicant, with an existing fellowship in nephrology and internal medicine from another country, has spent a period of at least 6 months in a recognised academic centre in South Africa; has been signed off by the head of that academic centre and SARS Executive and has written and passed the subspecialty examination in nephrology with the CMSA. All other candidates are expected to follow the current process for subspecialty training ie 2 years in a registered training unit and completion of the examination in nephrology.

2.6.../

2.6 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 Physicians for a once off extension.

**3.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING**

See Appendix A

**4.0 LOGBOOK and FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION**

See Appendix B

**5.0 ONGOING EVALUATION OF TRAINEE IN NEPHROLOGY**

See Appendix C

## APPENDIX A

### 1.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING

#### General Objectives

The general objectives of the training in Nephrology would be to prepare the candidate to practise renal medicine competently in a South African setting. The candidate should have a good working knowledge of the management of renal disease and related problems on a background of the relevant basic sciences. The candidate should be able to serve as a nephrology consultant to general medicine and other medical sub-specialities, as well as the speciality services such as Intensive Care, Urology, Obstetrics and Surgery – regarding kidney diseases and renal manifestation of systemic diseases. Experience in both ambulatory and in-patients settings should be obtained.

#### 1.1 Specific objectives

Pathophysiology, pathology, natural history and management of glomerular, tubulo-intestinal and vascular diseases of the kidney. The candidate should be familiar with both primary renal diseases and those which occur in the context of systemic disorders such as diabetes mellitus, connective tissue disease, infectious diseases, haematological diseases, as well as other metabolic infiltrative and inflammatory diseases and also in the context of diseases in remote organ systems such as heart failure and hepato-renal syndrome. The diseases unique to our region or which occur predominantly in a third world setting should be appreciated and understood.

- 1.1.1 The diagnosis, differential diagnosis, investigation and management of acute renal failure and its complications.
- 1.1.2 The diagnosis, differential diagnosis, investigation and management of chronic renal failure and its complications.
- 1.1.3 The physiology of, indications for, complications of, the various forms of haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Experience with the management of patients on acute and chronic dialysis.
- 1.1.4 The diagnosis, physiology, pathophysiology and therapy of disorders of water, sodium, potassium and acid-base regulation.
- 1.1.5 The diagnosis, pathophysiology and therapy of disorders of calcium, phosphorus and magnesium balance.
- 1.1.6 Renal pharmacology including the effect of disturbances in renal function of the use of common drugs, the effects of various drugs and therapeutic procedures on the kidney, toxicology, the use of dialysis in the treatment of overdoses and poisoning.
- 1.1.7 The diagnosis, differential diagnosis and therapy of all forms of hypertension, including complications of antihypertensive medications.
- 1.1.8 Pathogenesis and management of renal stone formation and urinary tract infection.
- 1.1.9 The diagnosis, investigation, medical management of urinary tract obstruction.
- 1.1.10 The principles of immunology involved in the mechanisms of renal disease.
- 1.1.11 The management of renal transplant, including understanding of the donor and the recipient's selection, histocompatibility typing, mechanisms of rejection and management of immunosuppression and its complications.
- 1.1.12 Genetics, cell biology and molecular medicine as applicable to renal disease.
- 1.1.13 Ethical issues related to the practise of renal medicine in South Africa and the African continent.

#### 1.2 Additional skills

Candidates would be expected to develop the following skills:

- 1.2.1 Unanalysis including examination of the urine sediment.
- 1.2.2 The performance and interpretation of the renal function tests.
- 1.2.3 Interpretation of radiological, radio-isotopic and ultrasound examination of the urinary tract.
- 1.2.4 Performance of renal biopsies, including indications, preparation and complications.
- 1.2.5 Interpretation of basic renal histopathology.
- 1.2.6 The ability to establish access for acute dialysis.
- 1.2.7 Critical appraisal of scientific publications, including basic research, pertinent to nephrology.
- 1.2.8 Manage other staff working in a renal unit in a team fashion.

- 1.2.9 Basic administrative skill required in the management of dialysis unit and renal patients.
- 1.2.10 Be able to do basic costing and cost analysis in the treatment of patients with renal disease.
- 1.2.11 Be able to identify the problems unique to practising renal medicine in a developing country.
- 1.2.12 Understand the principles of scientific research and be able to write a basic research protocol, as well as be able to conduct a scientific study.
- 1.2.13 Active participation in relevant:
  - (i) Congresses
  - (ii) Organised CME's
  - (iii) Academic meetings

## **A P P E N D I X B**

### **1.0 LOGBOOK and FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION**

#### **1.1 Training Record (logbook)**

A logbook must be kept, and in this a written record of training will be maintained by the trainee in a form reflecting the required training as outlined in Appendix A, to be countersigned by the Educational Supervisor and trainee annually. It will remain the property of the trainee and must be produced at the annual assessment. It will contain details of training requirements and competencies to be achieved within the context of the broad curriculum outlined in Appendix A.

This logbook must be submitted to the CMSA, at the time of applying for admission to the examination.

#### **1.2 Evaluation of Competence**

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

- a) An appraisal by the Educational Supervisor
- b) Submission of the Training Record (logbook)
- c) An examination under the auspices of the CMSA, which will be held twice a year.

The exit examination will consist of 3 online written papers,

- i. Paper 1 [ Basic Sciences] = MCQ paper [ no negative marking]
- ii. Paper 2 [Clinical paper] = SAQ paper
- iii. Paper 3 [Objective Test]

1.2.2 A sub-minimum pass mark of 50% is expected in each of the 3 components of the examination namely Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3. The candidate must pass each of the 3 papers separately at 50%.

1.2.3 There will be at least 2 examiners for each component of the examinations both of whom are registered nephrologists and both components of the examinations will be moderated.

1.2.4 The involvement of the candidate in a research project is strongly encouraged although not essential.

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

**APPENDIX C**

**1.0 ONGOING EVALUATION OF TRAINEE IN NEPHROLOGY**

The form below must be completed by the head/s of the Renal Unit/s who is/are responsible for the training of the candidate and must be submitted to the CMSA at the time of certification of two years of completed training.

**CANDIDATES DETAILS:**

Name: .....

Primary speciality: .....

Date of HPCSA registration of primary speciality: .....

Academic training unit: .....

Date of commencement of training: .....

Head of unit: .....

**SIX-MONTH REVIEWS:**

Please indicate date of evaluation and whether candidate performed satisfactorily (S) or not (U).

		Month 6 Date:	Month 12 Date:	Month 18 Date:	Month 24 Date:
	<b>Signature of Unit Head or authorised person</b>				
1.	Theoretical knowledge				
2.	Clinical skills:				
	Interventional procedures				
	Diagnostic evaluation				
	Therapeutic decision making				
3.	Standard of patient care				
4.	Adequate skills in urinalysis				
5.	Interpretation of imaging technique				
6.	<b><u>Procedures:</u> *</b>				
	(i) Percutaneous renal biopsies (native): No. performed: (Minimum 30/2 years)				
	(ii) Percutaneous renal biopsies (graft): No. performed: (No minimum)				
7.	<u>Histopathology</u> Basic interpretation skills				
8.	<u>Experience in CAPD:</u> * Period spent in clinic				
9.	<u>Experience in MHD:</u> Period spent in unit				
10.	<u>Experience in Renal Transplantation:</u> *				
	Period spent in ward and clinic - No. of acute transplants cared for primarily - No. of living related transplant work-ups done*				
11.	<u>Miscellaneous procedures:</u> Indicate: Type  Number				
12.	Candidates are expected to participate in a research project and to present their data at an appropriate congress – a publication / higher degree is the ultimate objective				

\* Please give figures