



C M S A

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JOHANNESBURG OFFICE
EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

March 2023

THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS 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
VASCULAR SURGERY
Cert Vascular Surgery(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 Surgeon

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 Surgeon
- 2.2 certification of having completed at least eighteen months as a subspecialty trainee in accredited specialist department(s) / division(s) / unit(s) of vascular surgery, registered and approved by the Health Professions Council of South Africa.
- 2.3 submission of the prescribed Portfolio, 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 the institution/s in which he or she trained.
- 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 Surgeons for a once off extension.

3.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING

See Appendix A

4.0 PORTFOLIO and FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

See Appendix B

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March 2023

APPENDIX A

1.0 SYLLABUS AND TRAINING

1.1 Curriculum

This is divided into mandatory and desirable components. It is recommended that the trainee in vascular surgery is proficient in the procedures listed as being mandatory, and should have been exposed and assisted at the operations designated as desirable:

1.1.1 **Mandatory:**

Basic Science:

- Applied anatomy
- Vascular haemodynamics
- Vascular physiology
- Vascular pathology
- Basics of ultrasound

Aspects of:

- Cardiology
 - Pulmonology
 - Nephrology
 - Neurology
 - Diabetes
 - ICU care
 - Haematology
 - Coagulation
 - Thrombolysis
- (As may be applicable to the practice of vascular surgery)

Non-invasive diagnosis of:

- Carotid artery disease
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Aortic aneurysms
- Renal artery disease
- Mesenteric artery disease
- Venous thrombosis
- Venous incompetence

Management:

- Peripheral vascular disease
- Aortic aneurysms
- Femoral, popliteal and other aneurysm diseases
- Aorto-iliac occlusive disease
- Extracranial vascular disease
- Carotid artery surgery
- Visceral ischaemia
- Arterial and venous trauma
- Diabetic foot
- Dialysis access
- Superficial and deep venous disease
- Venous hypertension
- Renal artery surgery Grafts and graft sepsis
- Renovascular disease

- Amputations
- Arterial and venous trauma and reconstruction of injuries
- Chemodectomas
- Thoracic outlet syndromes
- Vasculitis, dissections, entrapments, adventitial cystic disease, FMD and other uncommon manifestations of vascular disease
- Angioplasty
- Vascular stent replacement
- Sympathetic dystrophy
- Sympathectomy
- Arterial and venous reconstruction after resection of malignant disease

Research techniques:

- Research methodology
- Audit
- Statistics

1.1.2

Desirable:

Non-invasive diagnosis of:

- Impotence

Investigation:

- Performance of Angiography

Management:

- Thoraco-abdominal aneurysms
- Venous reconstructive surgery
- Endoluminal procedures such as angioplasty and intraluminal ultrasound

Research:

- Completion of research projects
- Publication of papers
- Higher academic degree eg MMed by dissertation

APPENDIX B

1.0 FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION¹

The College of Surgeons is constantly reviewing assessment methods to ensure the validity and reliability for their examinations.

1.1 Evaluation Of Competence

- 1.1.1 In order to be supported for registration in the sub-discipline of Vascular Surgery, each candidate will require to have completed:
- 1.1.2 A Portfolio recording operative and diagnostic procedures, stating the degree of supervision for each case. The Portfolio will need to be verified by the head of the unit on a quarterly basis
- 1.1.3 A curriculum vitae
- 1.1.4 Candidates will require to produce both their Portfolio **and** certification by the Head of Department or Departments in which the training was completed, confirming satisfactory completion of training and achievement of the requisite level of technical and operative skill, prior to admission to the exit examination
- 1.1.5 Complete an exit examination consisting of:
 - (i) two multiple choice digital papers each consisting of 75 questions will be written for 3 hours each. The marks from each paper will be added together for a total mark out of 150, the pass mark is 50% (75/150). To be invited to the oral examination a candidate must achieve 50% (75/150) or more.
 - (ii) two half-hour oral evaluations of the candidate's knowledge of vascular surgery will be conducted by two sets of two examiners. Not more than two of these four examiners may be drawn from the unit in which the candidate has completed their training
 - (iii) The overall mark will be calculated as follows: The MCQ contributes 50% and the two orals combined will provide the second 50%. To pass the examination a candidate must obtain an overall mark of 50% or more.

- 1.2 The examinations will include all pertinent aspects of applied anatomy, vascular physiology, haemodynamics, vascular pathology, ultrasonography and non-invasive vascular diagnosis, angiography and vascular radiology, and any aspects of vascular surgery that might be encountered in the day-to-day practice of vascular surgery. A curriculum is appended for guidance of both candidates and examiners

These examinations will be conducted by the CMSA, with the individual examiners being appointed on the recommendation of the Vascular Society

- 1.3 Upon successful completion of all aspects of the above, the candidates will be required to apply to the Health Professions Council of South Africa specialist committee for registration of their subspecialty.

1.4 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 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 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.

¹ Statement of assessment systems used.