



BLUEPRINT FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEPHROLOGY EXAMINATION

Cert Nephrology(SA) Phys

The Certificate of Nephrology examination consists of 3 papers. The candidate must achieve a subminimum of 50% in all 3 papers to pass the examination.

The following document is a guide for the candidates of the core topics that need to be covered.

Blueprint

PAPER 1 (BASIC SCIENCES): MCQ format and will consist of 150 questions (each question worth 1 mark).

PAPER 2 (CLINICAL): Short question format and will consist of 20 questions (each question worth 5 marks).

PAPER 3 (OSCE): Short question format and will consist of 20 questions (each question worth 5 marks).

PAPER 1 (BASIC SCIENCES):

The paper will be focused on basic sciences of kidney disease and transplant immunology. The following are considered core areas and the blueprint of the examination is outlined below.

Section	Topic	%	Number of Questions
1.	Renal Anatomy / Physiology / Tubular Physiology	10%	15
2.	Electrolytes / Water / Acid Base	10%	15
3.	Glomerulonephritides	10%	15
4.	Acute Kidney Injury – including rhabdomyolysis, leptospirosis	8%	12
5.	Chronic Kidney Disease- including MBD, anaemia	10%	15
6.	Transplant / Immunology / Immunosuppression	10%	15
7.	Dialysis: Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) and haemodialysis (HD)	6.5%	10
8.	Genetic conditions	6.5%	10
9.	Hypertension and Vascular Disease– including TMA	6.5%	10
10.	Diabetes	5%	8
11.	Pharmacology & Toxicology in Kidney Disease -including drug properties in CKD, dialysis and transplantation; poisonings	5%	7

12.	Onconeurology – including tumour lysis syndrome, myeloma, drugs	3%	5
13.	Pregnancy and the kidney	3%	5
14.	Research Methods	4%	5
15.	Nephrolithiasis	2%	3

PAPER 2 (CLINICAL)

The paper will focus on the clinical assessment and management of kidney disease. This will include any of the topics above, in addition to:

- Adolescent care relevant to adult nephrologists:
 - Common conditions, including glomerulonephritides, CAKUT, cystinosis, tuberous sclerosis etc.
 - Understanding and modification of high-risk behaviour (including non-adherence)
- Dialysis: dialysis adequacy, vascular access and Tenckhoff insertion
- Kidney supportive care: managing symptoms in patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD)
- Conservative kidney management in ESKD without dialysis (either by shared decision making or choice restriction)
- Ethical issues relevant to nephrology
- Research methods and statistical analysis

PAPER 3 (OSCE)

This will be an OSCE type examination covering all topics included in paper 1, in addition to:

- Urine examination
- ABPM interpretation
- Histology
- Imaging and interpretation
- Short clinical cases, including electrolytes and transplantation
- Assessment of dialysis adequacy (PD, HD)
- Relevant statistics and data interpretation