



JOHANNESBURG OFFICE

EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

C M S A

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE SUB-SPECIALITY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

(Certificate in Gynaecologic Oncology, Certificate in Maternal and Fetal Medicine,
Certificate in Reproductive Medicine, Certificate in Urogynaecology)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Regulations for admission to the examination for the post-specialisation sub-specialty certificates are found for each sub-specialty on the COG website. These regulations contain the requirements for training times, programmes and training centres, and the syllabus, which forms a general, but not exhaustive, guide to the examinations in the respective sub-specialities.

1.1 PRE-REQUISITES FOR ENTRY TO THE EXAMINATION

Before being allowed to enter for the examination candidates must submit proof of completed training time and activities. Candidates who fail the examination may enter the examination again on the basis of their original accepted portfolio.

Portfolios must reach the Academic Registrar in Johannesburg before the dates published on the CMSA website. The portfolio must be approved by the Convenor before entry is gained to the examination.

1.1.1 TRAINING

Candidates may enter the examination after a minimum of 18 months full-time or 3 years part-time training. A minimum of two years full-time or four years part-time training is required before registration with the HPCSA.

Training at more than one centre is encouraged, however, a minimum of 18 months of training at a recognised South African training centre is required. Training time outside South Africa should preferably be prior approved by the relevant subcommittee of the respective subspecialty, by the HPCSA and the Council of the College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (COG). Alternatively, the relevant subcommittee can recognise up to six months training time outside South Africa for the purpose of the examination and allow the candidate entry into the examination. If the candidate is successful in the examination, the Certificate is issued only when the COG has approved the required training time. Registration of subspecialist training will depend on HPCSA regulations of approval.

1.1.2 PORTFOLIO OF LEARNING

The portfolio of learning must detail all practical and academic learning during time spent (either full-time or part-time) in recognised training posts in all contributing training centres where applicable. The portfolio must contain proof of fulfilment of the rotation requirements and the logbook should reflect clinical activities and technical experience according to the respective subspecialty's prescriptions. The heads of the respective training units must confirm validity by signing the document.

The specific details pertaining to the 'PORTFOLIO OF LEARNING' are in a separate document on the CMSA website and candidates must familiarise themselves with its contents.

1.1.3.../

1.1.3 RESEARCH PROJECT

All subspecialty trainees should take part in the research effort of the training unit. The assessment of the research project will be the responsibility of the relevant university if the candidate has registered for a university degree as well. Research outputs are not part of the portfolio and are not required for the Certificates. Research methodology remains part of the curriculum of all subspecialties and will be assessed during the clinical examination.

2.0 WRITTEN EXAMINATION PAPERS

The written examination will consist of two papers each consisting of three questions (with or without subdivisions to allow shorter and longer questions) totalling 100 marks per question and 300 marks per paper. Candidates will have three hours to complete each paper. A portion of each written examination may consist of multiple choice questions.

Marks are submitted to the convenor to calculate and send the final marks to the moderator for approval. The convenor will round up the final mark only. The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) receives the approved list of candidates who are invited for the clinical examinations. The written papers will together count 40% of final mark.

3.0 PASS MARK AND INVITATION TO CLINICAL EXAMINATION

Candidates writing the Certificate in Maternal and Fetal Examination must pass both papers with an average of 50% to be invited to the clinical examination. One of the papers may be passed with a subminimum of 45%. Candidates obtaining less than 45% in any one paper will not be eligible for an invitation to the clinical examination.

The pass mark for candidates writing the Certificate in Gynaecologic Oncology, Certificate in Reproductive Medicine and Certificate in Urogynaecology written examination will be an average of 50% for both papers.

Marks are submitted to the convenor to calculate and send the final marks to the moderator for approval. The convenor will round up the final mark only. The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) receives the approved list of candidates who are invited for the clinical examinations. The written papers will together count 40% of the final mark.

4.0 CLINICAL EXAMINATION

- 4.1 The clinical examination will count 60% of the final mark and consists of three parts: OSCE, OSPE and a discussion of the Portfolio and Research methodology.
- 4.2 The OSCE contributes 25% of the final mark and will consist of six to eight OSCE stations. Candidates will have eight to ten minutes to complete each OSCE station. The OSCE must be passed with an average mark of at least 50%.
- 4.3 The OSPE contributes 25% of the final mark and will consist of four structured clinical OSPE cases. Candidates will have 20 minutes preparation time followed by 20 minutes examination time for each case. The structured clinical cases will emphasise clinical problem solving. The four OSPE cases must be passed with an average mark of at least 50%, provided no more than one case is failed.
- 4.4 Each candidate will have a discussion lasting 30 minutes on the portfolio during which also assessment of the understanding of research methodology is established. This evaluation will contribute 10% towards the final mark for the clinical examination.

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- 5.3 The OSPE contributes 25% of the final mark and will consist of four structured clinical OSPE cases. Candidates will have 20 minutes preparation time followed by 20 minutes examination time for each case. The structured clinical cases will emphasise clinical problem solving. The four OSPE cases must be passed with an average mark of at least 50%, provided no more than one case is failed.
- 5.4 Each candidate will have a discussion lasting 30 minutes on the portfolio during which also assessment of the understanding of research methodology is established. This evaluation will contribute 10% towards the final mark for the clinical examination.

- 5.5 The final mark will be weighted and calculated as follows:

Written examination	40%
Clinical Examination	60%
OSCE	25%
OSPE	25%
Portfolio	10%
Total	100%

- 5.6 The outcome of the examination (pass or fail) will be communicated to candidates after the examiner's meeting on the day of the clinical examination. Candidates must notice and will be informed that the marks are provisional, and the CMSA Senate must still ratify the marks. The CMSA will communicate the final marks to candidates.

JOHANNESBURG

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