Subspecialty of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine (PRM)

Guidelines for PRM Exit Assessment (Updated November 2019)

A. Areas of Assessment

The assessment consists of three parts

(1) Dissertations

(a) Two papers on topics related to Paediatric Respiratory Medicine (PRM) are required, one of which must be published or accepted for publication by a peer-reviewed journal.

(b) The candidate must be first author of both papers.

(c) An original thesis written for a postgraduate degree is not allowed.

(d) The papers should be written up within the higher training or subspecialty training periods. For published papers, those accepted prior to the commencement of PRM subspecialty training are not allowed.

(e) Candidates are advised not to submit more than 2 papers. If so, he / she is required to choose only two for assessment.

(f) Dissertation submitted after the deadline for application will not be accepted. Candidates who fail to submit the required number of dissertations will not be allowed to sit for the PRM Subspecialty Exit Assessment.

(g) If any one of the dissertations submitted is considered as exceptionally unacceptable by the panel of assessors, the candidate will fail the Subspecialty Exit Assessment irrespective of his / her overall score.

(2) Clinical Competence

During this part, a candidate is examined on at least two separate clinical problems designed by the examination panel. Areas of assessment include clinical history, examination, investigations, management, counselling, pathophysiology and genetics (if relevant). The candidates may also be shown video clips of bronchoscopy findings, radiological imaging, PSG tracings or lung function test for interpretation. All candidates from the same sitting will be examined on the same set of questions.

Candidates will be assessed on the approach to problem formulation and clinical management, more than on book-knowledge and minute details. They will be assessed on their clinical judgment and competence in dealing with clinical problems.

(3) Recent advances in PRM and Related Activities

Knowledge of scientific literature: 2-3 specific topics will be given to each candidate 4 weeks prior to the examination and he / she is expected to review recent literature for each topic. At the examination, 1 or 2 of the given topics will be chosen by the panel for further discussion.
The candidates may also be assessed on PRM-related activities such as audit, writing of guidelines etc.

B. Format

(1) Duration

There will be a 75-minute oral examination. It will be divided into three segments of 25 minutes conducted by three separate panels of two examiners and each being responsible for 1) Clinical Competence 2) Dissertations 3) Recent Advances in PRM and Related Activities. There will be a 5 minutes break between each section.

(2) Assessors

Each candidate will be assessed by at least 2 examiners and at least one of whom are non-specialty board members PRM fellows. There will be a senior examiner who would have reviewed the candidates' training record prior to the assessment. If a candidate's training fails to satisfy the board requirements, he / she will not be allowed to sit for the exit assessment.

(3) Schedule

Panel	Section	Duration
A	Clinical Competence	25 minutes
B	Recent Advances in PRM and related activities	25 minutes
C	Dissertations	25 minutes

C. Marking

(1) For each section, the candidate will receive an independent score from each examiner according to the following scoring system:

Good Pass	4
Clear Pass	3
Clear Fail	2
Bad Fail	1

(2) Pass Mark

(a) A candidate passes the Exit Assessment ONLY if he/she scores pass or clear pass in ALL sections.