

Subspecialty of Paediatric Neurology

Guidelines for Paediatric Neurology Subspecialty Exit Assessment (January 2016)

A. Areas of Assessment

The assessment consists of 3 parts

(1) Dissertations

- (a) Two papers on topics related to Paediatric Neurology are required, one of which must be published or accepted for publishing by a peer-reviewed journal. One of the two papers the candidate submitted for assessment during the higher paediatric training exit assessment is acceptable.
- (b) The candidate must be the first author of both papers
- (c) An original thesis written for a postgraduate degree is not allowed
- (d) The papers are expected to be written up within the higher training or subspecialty training periods. For published papers, those which are accepted prior to the commencement of the higher training period cannot be submitted.
- (e) Candidates are advised not to submit more than 2 papers. If so, he / she would be required to choose only two papers 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 able to present themselves for the PN Subspecialty Exit Assessment.
- (g) If any one of the dissertations submitted by the candidate is considered as exceptionally unacceptable by the panel of the assessors, the candidate will fail the PN Subspecialty Exit Assessment irrespective of his / her overall score.

- (h) The candidate is expected to present and discuss their papers at the Exit Assessment. Such presentation and discussion will be subject to evaluation.

(2) Clinical Competence

During this assessment a candidate will be examined on two separate clinical problems which are designed by the examination panel. Areas of assessment would include clinical history, examination, investigations, management, patient / parent counselling, pathophysiology and genetics (if relevant). There will be prescribed areas of examination and the examiners will be given guidelines on salient points that the candidate should be able to discuss and explain.

Candidates would be assessed on the approach to problem formulation and clinical management, more than on book-knowledge and minute details. They would be assessed on their clinical judgment and competence in dealing with clinical problems. This assessment may also include evaluation of medical-legal problems and ethical issues that are related to Paediatric Neurology.

(3) Data Interpretation

Candidates would be assessed on the interpretation of 10 essential EEG, neurophysiological tests, laboratory tests, neuroradiological images and other clinical data that are relevant to Paediatric Neurology. These data for examination would be selected by the Examination Panel before the Exit Assessment. All candidates will be examined on the same set of questions.

B. Format

(1) Duration

There will be a 60 minutes oral examination. It will be divided into two segments of 30 minutes conducted by two separate panels of two examiners each. One panel of two examiners will examine on Clinical Competence, and another panel of two examiners will examine on Data Interpretation and the Dissertations.

(2) Assessors

Each candidate will be assessed by 4 assessors, among whom there is a senior assessor who will review the Subspecialty Training Program of the candidate.

(3) Schedule

| Panel | Section | Duration |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| A | Clinical Competence | 30 minutes |
| B | Data Interpretation | 15 minutes |
| | Dissertations | 15 minutes |

C. Marking

(1) For the Clinical Competence Section, each candidate will receive an independent score from each assessor on each clinical problem according to the following scoring system:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Good Pass | 6 |
| Clear Pass | 5 |
| Bare Pass | 4 |
| Bare Fail | 3 |
| Clear Fail | 2 |
| Bad Fail | 1 |

(2) For the Data interpretation, each candidate will receive one score according to the number of questions correctly answered.

| Correct answers | Score |
|-----------------|-------|
| 10 | 12 |
| 8 – 9 | 10 |
| 6 – 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 6 |
| 3 – 4 | 4 |
| 1 – 2 | 2 |
| 0 | 0 |

(3) For the Dissertation, each dissertation will be separately assessed and given a score by each of the two assessors of the section using the same scoring scale of 1 to 6. The mark on the section on dissertations will be the sum of the marks of all the two dissertations divided by 2.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Good Pass | 6 |
| Clear Pass | 5 |
| Bare Pass | 4 |
| Bare Fail | 3 |
| Clear Fail | 2 |
| Bad Fail | 1 |

(4) Hence for the three sections the total scores will be calculated as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Clinical Competence Section | | | |
| | Clinical Problem 1 | Clinical Problem 2 | |
| Assessor A | 6 | 6 | 12 (a) |
| Assessor B | 6 | 6 | 12 (b) |
| Section Total Full Score (a)+(b) | | | 24 (c) |
| Data Interpretation Section | | | |
| Assessors C & D | 12 | | 12 (d) |
| Section Total Full Score (d) | | | 12 (e) |
| Dissertations | | | |
| | Dissertation 1 | Dissertation 2 | |
| Assessor C | 6 | 6 | 12 (f) |
| Assessor D | 6 | 6 | 12 (g) |
| Section Full Score with Weighting Adjustment ((f) + (g))/2 | | | 12 (h) |
| Grand Total Full Score (c)+(e)+(h) | | | 48 |

(5) Pass Mark

- (a) A candidate passes the Exit Assessment if he scores a total score of 30 or more out of the full score of 48, provided that a score of 14 or above is attained in the Clinical Competence section.
- (b) A candidate who scores 13 or less in the Clinical Competence section is considered to have failed the whole Paediatric Neurology Subspecialty Exit Assessment regardless of the total score.

(6) Special Arrangement for Exit Assessment for Remedial First Fellow Candidates

- (a) Only one dissertation is required for the exit assessment. The maximum total score for the section on dissertation will be 12. Each assessor will give a score out of six according to table mentioned in section (3) on page 4. The total score will be the sum of the marks given by the two assessors.