

Subspecialty of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine (PRM)

Guidelines for PRM Exit Assessment (updated on 1st March 2024)

A. Areas of Assessment

The assessment consists of 3 parts:

(1) Clinical Competence

During this assessment, a candidate will be examined on at least two separate clinical problems which are 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. These materials for examination are selected by the examination panel and all candidates will be examined on the same set of questions.

Candidates will be assessed on the approach to problems 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.

(2) 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 at least 4 weeks before the PRM exit exam.
- (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 are expected to be written up within the higher training or subspecialty training periods. For published papers, those accepted prior to the commencement of PRM subspecialty training 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 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.

(3) Recent advances in PRM and Related Activities

Knowledge of scientific literature: specific topics will be given to each candidate prior to the examination and he / she is expected to review the background and 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 will also be assessed on PRM-related activities such as audit, writing of guidelines etc.

B. Format

(1) Duration

There will be an 80-minute oral examination. It will be divided into two segments conducted by two separate panels of two examiners and each being responsible for 1) Clinical Competence 2) Dissertations and Recent Advances in PRM and Related Activities. There will be a 5-minute break between each section.

(2) Assessors

Each candidate will be assessed by 4 examiners. 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	40 minutes
B	Recent Advances in PRM and related activities / Dissertations	40 minutes

C. Marking

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

Good Pass	80 – 100%
Clear Pass	60 – <80%
Clear Fail	40 – <60%
Bad Fail	<40%

- (2) Pass Mark

- (a) A candidate passes the Exit Assessment ONLY if he/she scores good pass or clear pass in ALL three parts of the assessment.