

13. GENERIC GUIDANCE FOR THE PRE-BOARD CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT

The pre-board certification assessment (PBCA) is a mandatory requirement for all trainees who complete their training, across all specialties and subspecialties. It will take place once all components of stipulated local and overseas training are complete, together with satisfactory completion of all other academic requirements for board certification stipulated in the General Regulations and Guidelines and the relevant prospectus/es.

For all specialties and subspecialties, the PBCA should take the form of a final, summative assessment of the trainee's portfolio, carried out by 2 (or 3) independent examiners appointed by the relevant Board of Study or Speciality Board and approved by the Senate of the University of Colombo. The 3rd examiner should be from outside the discipline to improve objectivity.

Trainees are expected to maintain a portfolio during the period of post-MD training. This portfolio must contain evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes belonging to the following broad domains:

- a. Subject expertise
- b. Teaching
- c. Research and audit
- d. Ethics and medico-legal issues
- e. Information technology
- f. Life-long learning
- g. Reflective practice

The contents of the portfolio should be divided into sections according to the outcomes stated above, followed by a final section that contains evidence of reflective practice.

The following list sets out the type of evidence that may be relevant to each section. The details should be determined by each Board.

13.1 Subject expertise:

- a. progress reports from supervisors (essential, should be according to prescribed format)
- b. Supervisor feedback on communication skills
- c. log of procedures carried out
- d. results of any work-place assessments conducted
- e. In the case of sub-specialties, this section must include evidence that the trainee has acquired the essential knowledge, skills and competencies related to the sub-specialty, identified by the Specialty Board, and monitored with regular assessments throughout the period of post-MD training, e.g. mini-CEX, Case-Based Discussions, Direct Observation of Practical Skills

13.2 Teaching

- a. undergraduates
- b. postgraduates
- c. ancillary health staff

- 13.3** Research and Audit relevant to speciality or subspeciality
 - a. Dissertations / theses
 - b. Research papers published or accepted for publication
 - c. abstracts of presentations
 - d. Clinical audit

- 13.4** Ethics and Medico-legal Issues
 - a. Completed Professionalism Observation Forms (from integrated learning component of Professionalism Strand)
 - b. Completed PTR forms during post-MD training

- 13.5** Information Technology
 - a. Participation in training programmes / workshops
 - b. Evidence of searching for information and application of findings in practice

- 13.6** Life-long learning
 - a. Participation in conferences and meetings

- 13.7** Reflective practice
 - a. narration of at least one learning event experienced by the trainee, in relation to each of the above outcomes, with reflection on what and how the trainee learned from this experience

The portfolio should be reviewed at least every 6 months by the local supervisor(s), with regular feedback to the trainee on how the portfolio may be improved. When the trainee is eligible for PBCA, 3 copies of the completed portfolio should be submitted to the PGIM Examinations Branch.

The trainee should be called for an oral examination, during which he/she will be questioned on the portfolio. The trainee may be required to start with a presentation of 10 – 15 minutes, on the post-MD training if the Board deems it appropriate.

The overall assessment should be based on each of the main sections, which should be assessed as satisfactory or not on an overall basis. It is left to the Boards to decide whether to use a rating scale.

If the examiners are of the view that the trainee's performance is unsatisfactory, and the trainee should not be given immediate Board Certification, the examiners must provide the trainee with written feedback on how the portfolio should be improved in order to reach the required standard. The trainee should then re-submit the portfolio within a specified period of time (up to 3 – 6 months), and face another oral examination based on the re-submitted portfolio. If the trainee is successful at this 2nd oral examination, the date of Board Certification should be backdated as done routinely. If unsuccessful again, the date of Board Certification will be the date of passing the subsequent PBCA following further training for a minimum period of six months in a unit selected by the Board of Study.