

October 2006

THE COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS OF SOUTH AFRICA

R E G U L A T I O N S

**FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION FOR THE
POST-SPECIALISATION**

SUB-SPECIALITY CERTIFICATE

IN

DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICS

Cert Dev Paed(SA)

1.0 ELIGIBILITY TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION

In order to be eligible to enter for this examination, the candidate: -

- 1.1 Must comply with the requirements for registration as a medical practitioner, as prescribed by The Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Services Act.
- 1.2 Must be registered as a specialist Paediatrician.
- 1.3 Must have completed a minimum of eighteen months post specialisation as a sub-specialist trainee (or approved training post) in Developmental Paediatrics, in an accredited teaching facility/institution, registered and approved with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.
- 1.4 Must have completed all the required training course requirements in the subspeciality of Developmental Paediatrics
- 1.5 Must submit a written report from the head of the training programme, confirming that the training requirements have been met for registration in the subspeciality of Developmental Paediatrics, including, but not limited to skills, knowledge, experience, personal qualities and attitudes.

2.0 **SYLLABUS AND TRAINING**

See Appendix A

3.0 **FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION**

See Appendix B

4.0 **RECOMMENDED READING**

See Appendix C

APPENDIX A

1.0 SYLLABUS FOR TRAINING PROGRAMME IN DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

(As recommended by the Paediatric Neurology and Development Association of Southern Africa (PANDA-SA)).

This document details the curricula set by an ad hoc committee of PANDA-SA (2001) as the standard of training required for persons wishing to register as developmental paediatricians.

1.1 The overall aims of the training programme

The training program aims to equip candidates to practise in the subspeciality of Developmental Paediatrics. This encompasses the study, assessment and management of variations in normative development and behaviour from the newborn period to adolescence. General consensus accepts that it should include expertise in physical growth, maturation and development, psychosocial development, psychometric testing, screening and early intervention, common behavioural disorders, cognitive developmental disabilities, educational issues, rehabilitation and the management of social problems such as child abuse. The paediatric heritage therefore has to be superimposed on psychiatry, psychology, neurology, education, social work, the communication sciences, occupational and physical therapy and many more.

Because of the nature of this subspeciality, professionals who work in the field have to develop some unique characteristics. They need to be intellectually eclectic, dealing with gradation rather than absolutes. Their view has to be longitudinal and developmental. They have to deal with nature versus nurture interactions and often have to bridge gaps between science and clinical practise. They have to be committed to multidisciplinary collaboration in problem solving.

1.1.1 *Specific outcomes*

On completion of training the candidate must be able to manage children with special needs, whether at risk for, or with established neuro-developmental disabilities. They should have the skills to act as a resource for other professionals. They must be able to assist in training, research and the development of programmes, whether the focus is prevention, intervention or therapeutic.

1.2 Training

1.2.1 *Objectives*

At the end of the training the candidate must be able to pass an examination approved by the Health Professions Council of South Africa specialist committee.

1.2.1.1 **Knowledge**

The candidate must have a comprehensive knowledge of:

- Neuro-scientific basis ... /

- Neuro-scientific basis underlying child development and specific health conditions affecting development, including neuro-psychology and neuro-pharmacology, also clinical genetics.
- Normal and abnormal development of the child including physical, psychological, cognitive, social and educational development.
- Identification, assessment and management of children with developmental disability and behaviour problems.
- Related areas including health therapies, rehabilitation, neurology, surgical disabilities, psychiatry and community paediatrics
- The impact of culture, social issues and socio-pathology (eg child abuse) on developmental issues.

1.2.1.2 **Skills**

The candidate must be able to:

- Assess, diagnose, treat and manage children with disability and behavioural difficulties.
- Manage a wide variety of clinical problems and conditions commonly encountered in Developmental Paediatrics, after adequate clinical exposure
- Do psychometric assessments (be registered to do at least one), and interpret tools for screening, surveillance, perception and special senses
- Interpret special investigations such as neuro-imaging, hearing tests, perception, etc
- Communicate and have counseling skills

1.2.1.3 **Research proficiency**

The candidate must be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in principles of research and application to clinical practise and epidemiology.
- Demonstrate adequate knowledge of clinical research methods, biostatistics, epidemiology and ethics, essential in patient-based research projects.

The candidate must participate in research during the training period that must lead to at least one presentation at a national Paediatric conference, but the submission of one manuscript to a peer reviewed journal would be preferable.

1.2.1.4 **Organisation and Management**

The candidate must be able to:

- Manage a multidisciplinary team and co-ordinate service programmes.

1.2.1.5 Ethical issues

The candidate must be able to:

- Implement ethical standards
- Discuss and comprehend relevant ethical issues in developmental medicine

1.3 The training institution

- a) An institution/hospital offering a training programme in Developmental Paediatrics must be registered with The Medical and Dental Professional Board of the Health Professions Council of South Africa.
- b) The training programme, must have a programme director.
- c) The training should extend over a 24-month period, which may be divided into sections of not less than 3 months in length.
- d) It is possible to complete the programme at different institutions, provided that various institutions comply with the above conditions.
- e) Specific criteria have been drawn up by PANDA-SA as a guide to which institutions are registrable for training in Developmental Paediatrics.

1.3.1 *Methods for achieving the goals*

- a) Exposure to fulltime experience in Developmental Paediatrics with significant responsibility for patient management under close supervision by the training staff.
- b) Active participation in patient discussions, journal clubs etc.
- c) Participation in theoretical courses provided by the institution.
- d) Participation in clinical research. (see 1.2.1.3)
- e) Active participation in local, national and international seminars, postgraduate courses, symposia and congresses.
- f) Teaching (Registrars, Interns, Nursing Staff and allied professions).

APPENDIX B

1.0 FORMAT AND CONDUCT OF EXAMINATION

1.1 Evaluation of Competence

Evaluation of overall competence of the trainee will be based on:

- a) An appraisal by the Educational Supervisor, stating whether the candidate's performance was satisfactory, above average or excellent. An unsatisfactory appraisal will not be acceptable to allow a candidate to enter the examination.
- b) An examination held by the CMSA twice a year.
- c) The examination will comprise of:
 - I. Two written papers (*2 x 3 hours*)
 - II. A minimum of 3 clinical cases
 - III. An oral examination (*1 hour*)

All three components have to be passed. CMSA examination rules will apply.

- d) The examination may only be taken after a minimum training period of 18 months.
- e) There will be at least 3 examiners for each examination (none of which may also be the candidates programme director) of whom at least 2 will be registered developmental paediatricians
- f) Upon award of the Certificate, the trainee may apply to Health Professions Council of South Africa for sub-speciality registration.

APPENDIX C

1.0 RECOMMENDED READING

This list will only be compiled as the programmes are developed.

1.1 Books

1.2 Journals