

This fact sheet is one in a series. Other Titles include:

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FACT SHEET NO. 3*The facts on***The PSA Accreditation Assessment Process****Introduction**

The PSA offers registered pharmacists accreditation for the delivery of Medication Management Reviews (MMRs) to community-based individuals (including veterans) and residents of aged care facilities. The accreditation process has been designed to identify pharmacists with the required competency to provide a particular professional service to the required level.

Key elements

A pre-requisite for candidates for accreditation is the completion of a Stage One (preparatory) Course. Once the preparatory course has been completed, an application for the stage two accreditation assessment process can be lodged with the PSA.

The first step is to successfully complete an assessment based on the *Communication Module* (pass mark 75%). The *Module* is designed to provide information for pharmacists involved in conducting Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs) and Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs) on three important aspects – patient-centred care, patient communication and GP communication.

Once the *Module* has been successfully completed, candidates progress to the Assessment phase of the stage two accreditation process.

The Assessment

In seeking to find a balanced approach to assessment, which is both rigorous, appropriate, transparent, and cost effective for the PSA and candidates, the process combines a 40 question Clinical MCQ assessment (with a pass mark of 75%) and four hypothetical case studies (two Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs) and two Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs)).

The Clinical multiple-choice question (MCQ) component of the PSA accreditation assessment program has been designed to assess competence in clinical pharmacy, therapeutics, pharmaceutical care, and medication review. The questions assess knowledge of the principles of geriatric pharmacotherapy, rational and safe use of medicines, and the appropriate use and interpretation of laboratory tests.

Sample MCQs which are similar in style and complexity to those randomly allocated in the examination process are available on the PSA website. The Clinical MCQ assessment is an open-book examination comprised of 40 questions, in four sets of 10 questions. There is only one correct answer for each question.

There is a mixture of five short MCQs and five case study style MCQs in each set of 10. The pass mark for the MCQ assessment is 75%. The results of the open-book MCQ exam are non-appealable.

The aim of the case studies is to assess competency to provide quality medication management reviews. The case studies have been specifically designed to assess ability to:

1. Demonstrate ability to identify gaps in the information available and suggest methods for obtaining that information from an appropriate source
2. Demonstrate ability to identify actual, suspected, or potential drug- and
3. disease-related problems, relevant to individual patient
4. Demonstrate appropriate level of clinical judgment and skills to provide prioritised recommendations to GP resulting from medication review of patient
5. Demonstrate appropriate knowledge and use of references to support decision making
6. Demonstrate appropriate written communication skills and language in a letter or report to GP

The four case studies are randomly allocated to candidates. The process allows for two attempts at the Clinical MCQ assessment and two attempts at each of the case studies. Further attempts are subject to an additional cost.