

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

1. About the PSA
2. Accreditation & remuneration for medication reviews
3. PSA accreditation process
4. Accreditation assessment online
5. Reaccreditation for MMRs
6. Pre-registration candidates and the PSA MMR accreditation process

FACT SHEET NO. 4

The facts on **Accreditation Assessment Online**

Starting the process

Once you have successfully completed the MMR Stage One requirements and enrolled in MMR Stage Two you will be given access to the Stage Two online accreditation section of the PSA web site. The first modules are clinical MCQ assessment and a communications module followed by four hypothetical Case Studies (two HMRs and two RMMRs).

The MCQ assessment

This component of the assessment program has been designed to assess your competence in clinical pharmacy, therapeutics, pharmaceutical care, and medication review, and will focus on your knowledge of the principles of geriatric medicine, rational and safe pharmacotherapy in the elderly, and the appropriate use and interpretation of laboratory tests. The Clinical MCQs relate to the following therapeutic areas:

- Cardiovascular disorders
- Complementary medicines
- Dermatological disorders
- Drug interactions
- Endocrine/exocrine disorders
- Gastrointestinal disorders
- Haematologic disorders
- Infectious diseases
- Musculoskeletal diseases
- Neurologic disorders
- Nutrition/hydration disorders
- Oncological disorders
- Ophthalmological disorders
- Psychiatric disorders
- Renal and urologic disorders
- Respiratory disorders.

The 40 Clinical MCQs will be released to you in four batches of 10 MCQs. There is a mixture of five short MCQs and five case study style MCQs in each set of ten. The pass mark for the MCQ assessment is 75%. The results of the open-book MCQ exam are non-appealable.

You have two-hours to complete each part and **60 days** to complete the entire assessment. The 60-day timeframe commences from the date the PSA emails you to confirm that your online MCQ assessment has been released. If you do not complete each batch of 10 MCQs within the two-hour limit, you will be marked on what has been submitted.

The pass mark for the Clinical MCQ assessment is 75%.

The assessment is designed to ascertain whether you have an appropriate level of clinical knowledge in areas likely to be encountered when undertaking real-life MMRs. As such, and to preserve the integrity of the assessment instrument, feedback is **not** provided, however you will be provided with a score out of ten following the completion of each batch of 10 MCQs. Candidates are allowed two attempts at the actual assessment.

For this reason, it is strongly recommended that you undertake the sample clinical MCQs. The sample clinical MCQs have been provided to inform candidates about the types of questions they can expect in the actual Clinical MCQ assessment and, as such, feedback is provided. Candidates are encouraged to undertake this test before attempting the actual Clinical MCQ assessment and it can be done several times if required. The aim of the sample test is to help you identify areas where additional study would be useful.

If you complete the forty questions within the 60-day time limit but you are rated **not-yet-competent** to proceed (i.e., an assessment score less than 75%) to the next stage of the assessment process, you will be allocated a second MCQ with another batch of forty questions. Should you again be unsuccessful, you will be required to pay an additional assessment charge before a third set of questions is released to you.

On successful completion of the Clinical MCQ assessment you can then progress to the Case Studies.

The Case Studies

The process for the Initial Case Study is:

- You log onto the website, read the comprehensive instructions provided, access the case study, download it, and answer it. You will have 60 days to complete the case
- Submit (upload) the answers to the PSA web site for marking
- The marker allocates a Competent or Not-Yet-Component (NYC) grade and submits the results.

If the case study has been completed successfully, the remaining three case studies, randomly drawn from a bank of case studies, will be released individually:

- Successful completion of the initial case study will result in the release of the second HMR, with a 60-day completion period
- Successful completion of case two will result in the release of the first RMMR case study, with a 60-day completion period
- Successful completion of case three will result in the release of the second RMMR, with a 60-day completion period.

If any of the case studies are assessed as NYC by the marker, you will have the opportunity to resubmit the case. If, however, the resubmission is again assessed as NYC, the PSA will contact you to suggest further action which could include further study, and/or other remedial action. You may also be required to complete a “new” case, and this will attract an additional assessment fee.

Each candidate is randomly allocated a marker from the PSA pool of markers. Once allocated, all your case study submissions will be marked by the same marker. Once a case study has been submitted for marking, it cannot be recalled, and the answers cannot be changed. The marker is required to provide detailed, formative feedback during this critical stage.

Once you have successfully completed all four cases you will be required to complete a survey regarding the stage two accreditation assessment process and the value of the stage one (preparatory) course you attended. You will then be sent an email offering you accreditation. When you accept the offer a *Certificate of Accreditation* will become available to you.

Marking the Case Studies

The case studies are assessed against a candidate's ability to:

1. Identify gaps in the information available and to suggest methods for obtaining that information
2. Accurately identify actual, suspected, or potential drug related problems
3. Identify and prioritise recommendations using clinical judgement and skills
4. Use appropriate references to justify recommendation
5. Use appropriate communication and language for recommendations.

Candidate completion dates

Candidates for accreditation have one-year, from the date the Clinical MCQ assessment is released to them, to complete the process (i.e., the MCQ s and the four case studies).

PSA appeals process

Candidates for accreditation who have been assessed as NYC on the second attempt at any of the case studies have the right to appeal the marker's assessment/s. The Appeals' Policy is available from the PSA website.

The Reaccreditation process

The Reaccreditation process includes:

1. Annual record of CPD
2. A Multiple-choice clinical assessment every three years from the initial accreditation date.

For detailed information regarding the PSA Reaccreditation requirements, please see *PSA Fact Sheet No. 5: Reaccreditation for MMRs*.