

## ***Chemical Pathology – Portfolio and Examination Requirements***

This document describes changes to assessment in Chemical Pathology which will come into force in 2012 and 2013 in addition to options for those already registered for Part 1 examinations in 2011.

Trainees will be responsible for keeping a record of their workplace-based assessment as this is completed in a portfolio. This includes written assignments, practical skills assessments and case-based discussions.

### **Options for trainees in 2011**

Trainees who have registered for the Part I examinations in 2011 have the option to sit the written examinations in a 'revised' format or the 'old' format in 2011. They will receive a letter from the College, asking them to express their preference.

Trainees in the fourth and fifth year of training in 2011 who have passed the Part I examinations may choose to complete assignments instead of case reports in 2011 and should note that there will be four pieces of written work required instead of the five in previous years.

Trainees in their final year in 2011 will complete the chief examiner's critical literature review and three other assignments or case reports. The topics and requirements for the review and the assignments will be released shortly. In 2012 there will be no critical literature review and four written assignments or case reports (or a combination) will be required instead.

### **Changes in 2012**

- Part 1 written examination paper A will be held in May and will comprise 20 short notes questions (10 laboratory and 10 clinical) over 3 hours.
- Part 1 written examination paper B will be held in May and will comprise 40 MCQs (20 laboratory and 20 clinical) and 20 calculations over 3 hours
- Candidates who succeed in paper A and paper B will be invited to the oral examination in August.
- There will be no chief examiner's critical review essay.
- Part 2 written paper will be held in May and will comprise 20 short notes questions over 3 hours. There will be no essay questions.
- Final year trainees will be required to submit four 1500-2500 word assignments on specified topics. During the transition period trainees may submit case reports or other published papers in place of the assignments.
- All trainees who are not in their final year will be encouraged to submit their written assignments on a yearly basis. Following the transition period all trainees will have completed four written assignments by the time they graduate.
- Assessment of trainees' practical laboratory skills will start in 2012 with trainees completing one "direct observation of practical skills" (DOPS) assessment per year. When fully implemented trainees will complete four of these exercises in the first four years of training.

### **Changes in 2013**

- Case-based discussions (CbD) will be introduced from 2013 with the aim for trainees to complete four of these over the first four years of training.

The following table shows the portfolio and examination of requirements of Chemical Pathology trainees in 2012. The Part 1 and 2 written examinations are aligned with years 3 and 5 although this may vary with different trainees.

Training year	Portfolio requirements in 2012	Examinations in 2012
First year of training in 2012	Supervisor's report/s One (1) DOPS One (1) written assignment	Recommended to sit BPS if not passed previously
Second or third year of training in 2012 and planning to sit CP1 in 2013	Supervisor's report/s One (1) DOPS One (1) written assignment	
Third year of training and sitting CP1 in 2012 or Fourth year of training and sitting CP1 in 2012	Supervisor's report/s One (1) DOPS One (1) written assignment	Pre-examination supervisor's report (due in July) which confirms completion of portfolio requirements. This must be submitted to the College.  CP1 written exam Paper A (May) CP1 written exam Paper B (May) CP1 oral examination (August)
Fourth year of training in 2012 and passed CPI in 2011 and planning to sit CP2 in 2013 or later	Supervisor's report/s One (1) DOPS At least one (1) written assignment is recommended. Note, before sitting CP2 trainees must submit four (4) pieces of written work, which can comprise 1500-2500 word assignments on designated topics, case reports, other published papers or a combination of these (see below).	
Fifth year of training in 2012 and sitting CP2 in 2012	Supervisor's report/s One (1) DOPS Before presenting for CP2 trainees must submit four (4) pieces of written work. These can be 1500-2500 word written assignments on designated topics. They may also be case reports or other published papers relevant to Chemical Pathology where the trainee has made a significant contribution to planning, data analysis and writing. The trainee may submit a combination of works from the first and second categories.	Pre-examination supervisor's report must be submitted to the College.  CP2 written examination (May) CP2 oral examination (August)
Completing fifth year of training and has already passed CP2 examination.	Periodic supervisor reports are the only requirement	Not applicable

Further detail will be published in the *Trainee Handbook 2012 – Specific Requirements for Chemical Pathology*.

<http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Careers/Training/CurriculumTrainingHandbook.htm>