

March 2007

R E G U L A T I O N S

FOR ADMISSION TO THE DIPLOMA IN CHILD HEALTH OF THE COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS OF SOUTH AFRICA

DCH(SA)

1.0 Background and motivation for this diploma:

A large proportion of the burden of disease and death is borne by the child population in South Africa. While undergraduate medical curricula throughout the country are being transformed to take account of the public health realities in the country the extent of undergraduate training in paediatrics and child health is constrained by the other demands of the curriculum. On the other hand, for many practitioners, the option of a four-year paediatric specialist training programme is neither feasible, nor appropriate to the needs of child health in the general population

An intermediate qualification in this field therefore provides the opportunity for accredited competence in child health

2.0 Goal:

The goal of the Diploma in Child Health is to encourage postgraduate training and raise the standards of practice in child health and disease, giving special emphasis to preventive paediatrics and to the methods and sources available to help vulnerable or disabled children to achieve their optimum potential

3.0 ASSUMPTIONS OF LEARNING ALREADY IN PLACE BEFORE THE PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE QUALIFICATION IS COMMENCED

3.1 An undergraduate medical degree.

3.2 A minimum of six months of clinical practice in the field of paediatrics and child health.

4.0 EDUCATIONAL AIM / PURPOSE OF THE DIPLOMA

4.1 Increase standards of practice in child health and disease:

4.1.1 Acquisition of problem-solving skills in the field of paediatrics and child health

4.1.2 Ability to identify, manage and treat common childhood illnesses

4.1.3 Ability to request and interpret special investigations appropriate to the condition and the level of care

4.1.4 Ability to recognise child health problems requiring further referral

4.2 Improve competence in the practice and promotion of child health and preventive paediatrics

4.3 Strengthen community child health methods and sources available to support marginal groups of children to achieve their optimum potential.

5.0 TARGET GROUPS

5.1 The Diploma would be of value to general practitioners, medical officers, school medical officers, clinic and local authority doctors, child psychiatrists and others interested in community and family health

6.0 ADMISSION AS A CANDIDATE TO THE EXAMINATION (To be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

6.1 Qualification:

6.1.1 Registration requirements:

The candidate must be registered or registrable with the Health Professions Council of South Africa

6.1.2 Basic qualification required:

Before being admitted to take the examination for the DCH(SA), the candidate must:

- a) hold a registrable primary medical qualification;
- b) have completed her/his internship;
- c) have completed at least six months of full-time training (which may include four months of internship training) in paediatrics at:
 - any South African hospital accredited for internship training by the Health Professions Council of South Africa, or
 - at a South African non-internship accredited hospital that has been accredited by the CMSA for the DCH exam, or
 - at a foreign hospital that is accredited by the CMSA as offering satisfactory training.

7.0 SYLLABUS OF THE EXAMINATION

See guidelines to candidates - Appendix A

8.0 CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

8.1 Preparation for examination:

Most academic centres in South Africa convene a course of lectures and clinical demonstrations on aspects of the curriculum

These courses are run on a part-time basis, thus enabling access by prospective candidates who are in fulltime employment

8.2 Examination:

Candidates are examined with a view to deciding whether they have knowledge and insight into the special problems of childhood:

- a) Two written papers each covering relevant topics in paediatrics and child health
- b) An objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) with six stations
- c) A slide (picture) test

9.0 ADMISSION AS A DIPLOMATE

9.1 The candidate having passed the examination and having been admitted as a Diplomat in Child Health of the Colleges of Paediatricians of South Africa, will be asked to sign a declaration, as under:

I, the undersigned,

.....
do solemnly and sincerely declare

that while a member of the CMSA I will at all times do all within my power to promote the objects of the CMSA and uphold the dignity of the CMSA and its members

that I will observe the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, By-laws, Regulations and Code of Ethics of the CMSA as in force from time to time

that I will obey every lawful summons issued by order of the Senate of the said CMSA, having no reasonable excuse to the contrary

and I make this solemn declaration faithfully promising to adhere to its terms

Signed at this

..... day of

..... 20

Signature

Witness
(who must be a Founder, Associate Founder, Fellow, Member, Diplomate or Commissioner of Oaths)

9.2 A two-thirds majority of members of the CMSA Senate present at the relevant meeting shall be necessary for the award to any candidate of a Diploma

9.3 A Diplomate shall be entitled to the appropriate form of certificate under the seal of the CMSA

9.4 In the event of a candidate not being awarded the Diploma (after having passed the examination) the examination fee shall be refunded in full

9.5 The first annual subscription is due one year after registration (statements are rendered annually)

APPENDIX A

GUIDELINES FOR THE DCH(SA)

SYLLABUS OF THE EXAMINATION

1.0 In addition to all aspects of paediatrics and child health, there will be special emphasis on problems of the underprivileged child and on preventive paediatrics including knowledge of the preventive services available and the legislation relating to children in South Africa

2.0 The principles of prenatal and neonatal paediatrics, the physiology of infancy, childhood and adolescence, and growth and development

3.0 The candidate will be expected to have a working knowledge of the diagnosis, treatment and management of common diseases of infancy and childhood; learning and psychological difficulties; the problems of the disabled child; and a practical approach to the diagnosis of surgical and orthopaedic conditions, and emergency care

4.0 The candidate will be expected to be skilled in the basic screening and assessment of motor development, hearing and vision of infants and children

5.0 The candidate will be expected to be proficient in history-taking, counselling and dealing with ethical issues related to paediatrics.