

Clinical examination preparation standards for network trainees

Purpose

To ensure that network clinical exam sitting registrars receive adequate preparation. **These standards do not apply to non-network exam sitters.**

Expected standard

Clinical exam preparation activities

At a minimum, clinical exam preparation activities that each network trainee should have access to include:

- individual practice long case (AT registrar or consultant) 1 x weekly
- group bedside / short case tutorial (AT registrar or consultant) 1 x weekly
- weekend practice exam half-day session (participate) 2 x in the course of the preparation period (local +/- exchange with other hospital)

The preparation period extends from the notification of the February written results until 2 weeks before the clinical exam. The trend to earlier clinical exam dates may require modification.

Access to weekend practice exams can be either local or at other network sites (travel for weekend exam practice should be encouraged).

Attendance at public long cases (local or shared-online) should be encouraged. Long cases can be either virtual or face to face, but - assuming a traditional exam format - at least 50% should involve patient examination.

Setting resources

Settings should have the following resources:

- Setting routinely hosts, (or contributes to hosting) the RACP clinical exam, with access to experienced local and/or national examiners to guide local practice
- Long and short cases covering most key topics
- Video/teleconferencing capabilities for offsite access for after-hours if required
- A venue for group access to Clinical Examination Preparation Program evening lectures
- CMR/AO/ESO who can arrange the exam preparation roster

- Roster to rotations suitable for exam preparation (i.e. limit requirement for off-site terms / night shifts and have a robust plan for after-hours trainees to access exam preparation resources)

Hosting capacity

A setting's exam hosting capacity should be equal to or greater than exam sitting capacity (this can be distributed over a network).

Monitoring

Clinical exam preparation standards can be monitored through the following:

- Exam sitter feedback questionnaire
- Provision of exam preparation rosters when requested
- Will be assessed as part of RACP Network accreditation

Response to concerns

The following options can be considered in response to concerns in a setting's ability to meet clinical examination preparation standards:

- The NRC to meet with setting to determine ways to support through network resources (sharing of cases)
- Revision of network allocations to match capacity
- Review of suitability to host exam sitters

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