



30 November 2012

To All HKCA SOTs and trainees

Re: Changes to HKCA Examinations from 2013

Please take note of the following changes to the HKCA Examinations from 2013.

Candidates Withdrawing from Examinations

(Intermediate or Final Examination in Anaesthesiology, Pain Medicine, and Intensive Medicine)

The Board encourages candidates to make careful considerations before applying for examinations. As from 2013, the Board will commence strict enforcement of the following clauses in the Administrative Instructions on Examinations regarding candidates who withdraw from examinations:

2.5.4 A candidate whose withdrawal is received by the College office, in writing, before the published date on which entries close will be refunded the examination fee, less an administrative charge.

2.5.5 A candidate whose entry has been accepted and who withdraws from the examination on or after the date on which entries close, or who fails to attend at the examination, shall forfeit the examination fee.

2.5.6 The Board may, on production by the candidate of satisfactory evidence of a medical or compassionate nature, refund a proportion of the fee paid, provided that the refund is applied for within seven days of withdrawal or failure to appear.

OSCE, Final Fellowship Examination in Anaesthesiology

The scope of the OSCE will be broadened and can include the following subjects:

1. Long Clinical Case: this station will be counted as two OSCE stations in duration (total 20 minutes) and allocated mark. It may cover history, physical examination, investigations, medical and surgical diseases, and perioperative management.
2. Critical Appraisal of Literature: candidates will be given time to review a journal article before the start of OSCE. During the OSCE station (10 min), the candidate will be asked to judge the trustworthiness of the article, and its value and relevance in a particular context, including its study objective, design, methodology, results, statistics, interpretation, and applicability.

The Long Clinical Case station and the Critical Appraisal of Literature station will be introduced as possible options for OSCE stations in 2013 and 2014 respectively. The total number of OSCE stations will remain at 10 in each examination. The other possible options for OSCE stations include physical examination, communication, procedure, anatomy and regional anaesthesia, equipment, crisis management, resuscitation, X-rays, and investigations.

In co-operation with the Board of Education, we shall provide tutorial/lecture session on Critical Appraisal of Literature in 2013. Trainees are encouraged to develop skills and knowledge in this important area of evidence based medicine.

Board of Examinations

The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists