

## Policy – Regulatory examinations

---

March 2025

### Regulatory exam policy for repeat candidates or those applying for an additional division

#### Purpose

This document sets out the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia's (the Board's) policy for candidates undertaking the Board's regulatory examinations, in circumstances where the candidate has either qualified for registration in one division or wishes to repeat the regulatory examination(s) following an overall fail result.

This policy applies to all overseas-qualified practitioners applying for registration who:

#### Criteria A

- currently hold general registration in the division of acupuncture or Chinese herbal medicine or have successfully passed the examination(s) in one of these divisions, and
- have been deemed eligible by the Board to undertake the regulatory examinations.

#### Criteria B

- wish to repeat the regulatory examination(s) for one or more divisions due to not receiving an overall pass result.

This policy does not apply to candidates seeking registration in the division of Chinese herbal dispensing, as the Board does not have a regulatory examination for this division.

Candidates will be advised by Ahpra if they meet the criteria for this policy.

#### Regulatory Examination

The regulatory examination has two parts: a multiple-choice questionnaire (MCQ, part 1) and an objective structured clinical exam (OSCE, part 2). Both part 1 and part 2 have components relating to the acupuncture or Chinese herbal medicine divisions, plus components common to both divisions.

Candidates must successfully pass the common and division specific components of the MCQ (part 1) before progressing to the OSCE (part 2). Candidates must then achieve an overall passing result for the common and relevant divisional OSCE stations to be eligible for general registration.

Under this policy, candidates will sit a reduced exam consisting of just the relevant divisional components where one of the following is true:

1. The candidate currently holds general registration in one division (either acupuncture or Chinese herbal medicine) and is required to complete the regulatory examinations to gain registration in the other division; or
2. The candidate has successfully passed the part 1 examination components that would allow them to proceed to part 2 in one of the divisions; or
3. The candidate has successfully passed the part 2 examination components that would allow them to proceed with registration in one of the divisions\*.

\*For the successful pass criteria for part 2 of the examination refer to Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) results policy

In all cases, the candidates must have an active application for registration in the division(s) covered by the examination.

These circumstances are visualised at Appendix A.

### Examination repeats

Candidates may sit each regulatory examination (being the MCQ and OSCE) up to **five times** for each division (i.e. five attempts for acupuncture and five attempts for Chinese herbal medicine).

Candidates wishing to sit beyond the maximum allowed five sittings must show cause to the Board as to why they should be granted further opportunity to pass the examination(s). This may involve, but not be limited to providing evidence of completing further education or study or evidence of special circumstances. Whether a request for further sittings is granted is at the discretion of the Board.

### Costs

The cost of sitting the examination for candidates who meet the criteria under this policy will be determined by the Board.

### Monitoring, evaluation and review

This policy will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every three years.

### Definitions and abbreviations

**Regulatory examinations** may be used by the Board to:

- i. assess an overseas-qualified Chinese herbal medicine practitioner's or acupuncturist's suitability to qualify for registration in Australia, in circumstances where they are assessed as holding a qualification that is relevant but not substantially equivalent or based on similar competencies to an Australian Board-approved qualification,
- ii. assess a practitioner's competence to practice, in circumstances where they don't meet recency of practice or performance concerns have arisen.

**MCQ** means the Multiple-Choice Questionnaire, which is a written computer-based examination consisting of scenario based multiple-choice questions. The MCQ assesses the candidates' ability to interpret information and make safe and effective clinical decisions.

**OSCE** means the Objective Structured Clinical Examination, which is a station-based examination consisting of tasks related to clinical scenarios. The OSCE assesses competence for practice and clinical skill performance. It involves 5 common stations and 2 stations each for Chinese herbal medicine and acupuncture divisions.

### Associated documents

[CMBA regulatory examinations candidate handbook – multiple-choice question examination, March 2025](#)

[CMBA regulatory examinations candidate handbook – objective structured clinical examination, March 2025](#)

### Effective date

March 2025

## Appendix A

Domain applied for registration	Circumstances	Part 1 - MCQ			Part 2 - OSCE		
		Common components	Acupuncture component	Chinese herbal medicine component	Common components	Acupuncture components	Chinese herbal medicine components
Acupuncture	Unregistered	Required	Required	Not required	Required	Required	Not required
Acupuncture	Registered in Chinese herbal medicine	Not required			Not required		

Domain applied for registration	Circumstances	Part 1 - MCQ			Part 2 - OSCE		
		Common components	Acupuncture component	Chinese herbal medicine component	Common components	Acupuncture components	Chinese herbal medicine components
Chinese herbal medicine	Unregistered	Required	Not required	Required	Required	Not required	Required
Chinese herbal medicine	Registered in acupuncture	Not required			Not required		

Domain applied for registration	Circumstances	Part 1 - MCQ			Part 2 - OSCE		
		Common components	Acupuncture component	Chinese herbal medicine component	Common components	Acupuncture components	Chinese herbal medicine components
Combined (Acu & CHM)	Unregistered, no parts passed	All components required			All components required		
Combined (Acu & CHM)	Passed part 1 & 2 for acupuncture	Already passed	Already passed	Required	Already passed	Already passed	Required
Combined (Acu & CHM)	Passed just part 1 for acupuncture				All components required		
Combined (Acu & CHM)	Passed part 1 & 2 for Chinese herbal medicine	Already passed	Required	Already passed	Already passed	Required	Already passed
Combined (Acu & CHM)	Passed just part 1 for Chinese herbal medicine				All components required		