

Policy – Successful completion of competence assessment

Effective 29 May 2023

Who this policy is for?

This policy applies from 29 May 2023 to any person that Ahpra requires to undertake the Paramedicine Board of Australia competence assessment (Board's paramedicine competence assessment) as part of the Board's requirements for an individual to qualify for general registration as a paramedic through the s53(c) pathway.

Relevant provisions

Section 53 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory (*National Law*) is relevant to this policy.

Paramedicine competence assessment for the purposes of s53(c)

The Board's paramedicine competence assessment is administered by the Paramedic Competency Assessment Consortium (<http://www.paramedicassessments.com>). The consortium uses current, evidence-based methods to assess applicants. The assessment standards are consistent with the expected paramedic competencies, as published by the Board.

All assessments and resits are to be taken at the candidates own cost.

The assessment itself consists of three elements:

- Multiple Choice Questions – 60 questions designed to assess candidates' knowledge and reasoning capacity across the 5 domains of professional capability.
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) – demonstration of multiple skills across the 5 OSCE areas designed to assess candidates' competence in each area. The performance of each skill is evaluated against the following 4 criteria:
 - Was the procedure performed with adherence to best practice infection control principles?
 - Was it performed in a way that is safe for patient and paramedic?
 - Was it performed in manner that would have optimised likelihood of success?
 - Was it performed in a timely manner commensurate to the context in which it is being performed?
- Scenarios – 2 scenarios designed to assess candidates' knowledge, skills and behaviour. The performance during each scenario is evaluated against the following 6 criteria:
 - Scene management and teamwork
 - Patient assessment
 - Decision-making
 - Procedural skills and clinical treatment
 - Communication
 - Safety

Report on the assessment

The report to Ahpra on each candidate's performance in the Board's paramedicine competence assessment will identify for each element either:

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A: at all times during the assessment, the candidate demonstrated the level of competence expected to practise paramedicine safely and ethically in Australia.

OR

B: during the assessment, the candidate's level of competence was below that expected to practise paramedicine safely and ethically in Australia on the item noted below.

Decision on successful completion of the assessment

If the report to Ahpra identifies that the candidate demonstrated the level of competence expected to practise paramedicine safely and ethically in Australia at all times during each element of the assessment, the Board/Ahpra will decide the candidate has successfully completed the Board's paramedicine competence assessment for the purposes of s53(c).

If the report to Ahpra identifies that the candidate's level of competence during any element of the Board's paramedicine competence assessment was below that expected to practise paramedicine safely and ethically in Australia, the Board/ Ahpra will review the report for all elements of the candidate's assessment against the following decision-making framework to decide if they have successfully completed the assessment for the purposes of s53(c).

Decision-making framework for successful completion of the assessment

The candidate has successfully completed the assessment and is qualified through the s53(c) pathway if the report on the applicant's performance in the Board's paramedicine competence assessment identifies:

Multiple Choice

The candidate correctly answered at least 40 out of 60 questions.

OSCE

The candidate successfully completed at least 85% of the criteria evaluated across the skills assessed within the 5 OSCE areas including all the safety criteria.

Scenario

The candidate demonstrated competence in at least 9 of the 12 criteria evaluated across the two scenarios including competence in all the safety criteria.

Unsuccessful outcomes and resits

If a candidate has not successfully completed the assessment and the report on that candidate's performance identifies the candidate:

- a. correctly answered 38 or 39 multiple choice questions and their performance met the required level in the OCSE and Scenarios; OR
- b. correctly answered at least 40 multiple choice questions and their performance was below the levels specified in this policy for one or two criteria in either the OSCE or scenario element

Ahpra will advise the candidate they can resit those elements within 6 months of their unsuccessful performance.

If the candidate does not resit those elements within 6 months of their unsuccessful performance, the candidate must complete all elements of the Board's paramedicine competence assessment. The outcome of the resit will be decided in accordance with the decision-making framework for successful completion.

If a candidate has not successfully completed the assessment and the report on that candidate's performance identifies the candidate's performance was below the levels specified in this policy to resit those elements, they must complete all elements of the assessment. The outcome of the resit will be decided in accordance with the decision-making framework for successful completion.

Document control

Approved by	Paramedicine Board of Australia
Date approved	25 October 2021
Date commenced	1 December 2021
Date modified	29 May 2023