



Regulation on the basic examination in surgery, the written examination of basic surgical knowledge

**Approved by the board of the union of surgical societies on 1 April 2000.
Subsequently confirmed by the union's successor, the FMCH.**

Preamble

The FMCH Societies sees the promotion of further and higher education in all of surgery as one of its most important tasks, and the 'common trunk' is a central concern. The Union had set up an examination of general basic knowledge in surgery and offered it for voluntary self-evaluation since 1992; the basic examination is being continued by the FMCH and offered for self-evaluation to those interested, in collaboration with other surgical societies.

Consequently, most of the societies of the FMCH have made basic surgical knowledge and its evaluation into an obligatory component of their further education programmes and examination regulations. Accordingly, this regulation is indebted to the further education rules (WBO) of the FMH / SIWF and the scientific criteria of a professional medical examination

1 Examination aim

- 1.1 The examination serves for continuous quality assurance in surgical further education and surgical care of the population. It should ensure that future specialists will have the necessary overall basic surgical skills as well as their specialisation. Accordingly, basic surgical knowledge and its clinical and practical aspects are examined.**
- 1.2 This is a qualifying examination, which is a requirement for further specialist examinations in the different specialties, which specify this in their rules, and on the other hand it is an examination for self-evaluation for interested participants.**

2 Examination material

The examination contents are described in detail in the list of learning objectives of the FMCH and weighted in the blueprint grid. Essentially, these consist of: knowledge of general topographical anatomy; physiological and pathophysiological understanding of surgical problems and complications associated with trauma, shock, resuscitation; knowledge of electrolyte, fluid and blood replacement, bleeding, thromboembolism, cardio-respiratory failure, ischaemia, infection, sepsis, metabolism, wound and bone healing; knowledge of pain control, anaesthesia; diagnostic and therapeutic skills including emergency measures for important surgical diseases and consequences of trauma; in addition, general and technical knowledge essential for practising the profession is examined (legal, social, ethical aspects, epidemiology, technology, instruments, elements of quality assurance and economics).

3 Examination board

3.1 Composition and constitution of the board

The examination board consists of representatives of the specialist societies who are involved in continuing and further education, ensuring appropriate representation of language and country regions and surgeons in private practice. The board constitutes itself, with the exception of the chairman, who is chosen by the board of the FMCH.

3.2 Functions of the board

Organisation and holding of the examination

The board guarantees the organisation and holding of the examination in accordance with Art. 4, in agreement with the surgical societies.

The detailed rules and procedural rules*

The examination board can formulate detailed rules and procedural rules, which are valid for at least one examination year.

Cooperation with external experts

The board can engage other experts and transfer particular tasks to specialist institutions.

Examination content

The board is responsible for the examination content on three levels:

- 1. It publishes and reviews at regular intervals a list of learning objectives, which describes the examination content specifically and bindingly.**
- 2. It specifies a weighted content grid, in which the examination contents are classified and weighted according to various criteria. This blueprint grid forms the basis for compiling the examination questions.**

3. The board determines the specific examination content and it decides on the answer keys of the examination questions.

Standard setting and assessment

The board is responsible for the assessment of examination performance and for setting the pass limits in accordance with Art. 5.

Setting the examination dates and fees

The board sets the examination dates and examination sites and determines the examination fees.

Evaluation

The examination board regularly undertakes an evaluation of the entire examination procedure and positioning in the international area.

Granting of inspection of the files

According to WBO, the examination documents are absolutely confidential. In exceptional cases, such as objection procedures, this is organised according to FMH / SIWF guidelines under the direction of the chairman of the board.

3.3 The chairman of the board

Board meetings

The chairman is responsible for calling and chairing board meetings. He ensures the board's composition in accordance with Art. 1.

Management

The chairman is responsible for management and can employ a committee and a person / secretary for the secretariat.

Representation of the board

The chairman represents the board and informs the FMCH and specialist societies respectively. He can nominate a deputy. He informs the examination candidates and discloses the examination results. He decides in the event of irregularities.

Comments and provision of information in the objection procedure

In objection procedures and other regulatory matters relevant to the examination, the chairman draws up comments and gives out information.

Cooperation and contracts

The chairman is concerned with cooperation with suitable institutions and with the specialist societies. In addition, he strives for international cooperation and concludes the necessary agreements and contracts when required.

Board work and scientific evaluation

The chairman organises the work of the board (creation of MC questions, standard setting, revision of the MC questions, translation, etc.) and arranges evaluation of the examination session.

4 Examination type and modalities

4.1 Form and language of the examination

The basic examination in surgery is a multiple-choice (MC) examination with at least 150 questions and a minimum duration of 4 hours. Details are laid down in the detailed rules. The examination language is English.

4.2 Timing of the examination

The examination may be taken after the first year of further training.

4.3 Admission to the examination

Only candidates with a Swiss or recognised foreign medical degree are admitted to the qualifying basic examination for the specialist societies mentioned under 1.2.

4.4 Examination time, location, application and fee

The examination takes place at least once a year.

The fee, time, location and application dates and criteria are set by the board and published at least 6 months beforehand on the basic examination in surgery, FMH / SIWF and FMCH website and with a notice in the Swiss Medical Journal and on the basic examination website (mandatory).

The examination fee must be paid with the application for the basic examination. A correct and fully and accurately completed application, including payment of the full fee, is a requirement for admission to the examination. If the application is withdrawn, it is refunded only when the application is withdrawn at least four weeks before the examination date. In the case of withdrawal at a later time, the fee is refunded only for important reasons.

4.5 Assessment and log

The logging and assessment are carried out in accordance with detailed rules according to accepted scientific methods.

4.6 Examination data and documents

The examination data and documents are regarded as absolutely confidential. The examination documents are stored for at least two years after the examination. The data may be used in anonymised form to improve further education and for scientific processing.

5 Assessment

Examination performance is graded 1-6. The examination is regarded as passed when a grade of at least 4 is obtained. The pass limit (standard setting) is determined by the board according to a scientific, content-based procedure. The details are laid down in the detailed rules.

6 Disclosure of the examination result, objection and repeating the examination

The result must be disclosed to the candidate in writing, stating their right of appeal.

The examination can be repeated as often as desired.

The decision on non-admission to the examination can be contested within 30 days and that on examination failure within 60 days from obtaining the written result to the objection board of the higher education titles committee (EK WBT) (Art. 23 and Art. 27 WBO). Candidates who sit the examination for self-evaluation receive a certificate against which no objection is allowed.

7 Entry into force

This regulation comes into force on 1 July 2000. In revised form on 1 June 2018

* The detailed rules and procedural rules are published on the internet.