FAQ for the online delivery of the pharmacy oral exam (practice)

30 April 2020

What are the technical requirements?

Please ensure you use a desktop computer or laptop to undertake the pharmacy oral examination (practice). Other devices such as iPads, tablets or mobile phones are not suitable. All candidates are required to have a webcam connected to their computer or an internal webcam.

It is vital that all candidates follow the procedures for testing their computer prior to undertaking the examination. You will be sent a link via email from Ahpra which will enable you to test the link and ensure that the audio-visual capacity of your computer is suitable to complete the online examination.

What do I do if I can’t access a good computer, reliable internet access or other tools needed to sit an online exam? Can Ahpra help?

COVID-19 presents an extraordinary set of challenges. After assessing the options available, the Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) and Ahpra decided that online delivery of the examination would provide the best opportunity for most candidates to still sit the exam in June 2020.

Ahpra and the Board acknowledge that the online version of the pharmacy oral examination (practice) may not be suitable for all candidates. Given the current situation, Ahpra is limited in the support it can provide to candidates who feel they do not have the technical set-up to sit the exam. It is for this reason that we suggest candidates who feel it would not feasible to sit the pharmacy oral examination (practice) opt to defer or refund their examination fee.

Will I be able to use scrap/scratch paper?

Yes. Candidates are permitted to use scrap/scratch paper. You will be asked to show both sides of your paper to the examiners before the exam. At the completion of the exam, the examiner will ask you to show your rough work to the webcam and then instruct you to dispose of the paper by ripping it up.

Are reasonable adjustments to the pharmacy oral examination (practice) online available for candidates with special needs?

Yes. Candidates who applied for reasonable adjustments for the June 2020 sitting will have their applications reviewed by the Board. Ahpra will attempt to provide previously approved accommodations to the best of its ability. Candidates will receive an update on their application prior to the June 2020 online sitting.

Please note: any requests for reasonable adjustments must be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Will there be a reduction in the examination fee?

No, and no additional payment is required to sit the pharmacy oral examination (practice) online in June. Candidates who decide not to sit the pharmacy oral examination (practice) online are able to defer their current sitting or receive a refund of their examination fees. Deferral and refund applications must be made by emailing pharmacyoralexam@ahpra.gov.au.
How will the exam be conducted on the day?

Information on the conduct of the exam on the day and what to do if there are technological issues will be provided to all candidates who have applied to sit the June exam.

Will the October face-to-face pharmacy oral examination (practice) go ahead or might that also move online?

At this stage the October 2020 oral exams will be delivered face to face. Once the June exam is completed the focus will move to October, and the Board will announce any further updates as required.

Further questions?

Please email pharmacyoralexam@ahpra.gov.au.