

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER

EXAMINATION POLICY

Purpose

This document is intended to outline the procedures regarding the examination process for Emergency First Responder (EFR).

Nomination

Candidates must nominate themselves for the examination by email to efr@redcross.ie, no less than 20 days before the examination date.

Date and location of the exam will be at the discretion of the EFR Exam Coordinator, however special requests may be considered in certain circumstances.

Candidates must sit an examination within 8 months of the final day of their course.

Any candidate with a disability or injury must notify the EFR Exam coordinator of this upon application for the EFR Exam. It may not be possible to adapt the EFR exam to certain disabilities/injuries, but each case will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Structure

There will be 2 parts to the exam:

1. A written MCQ paper, consisting of 40 questions
2. A circuit of at least 5 selected Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) from the 9 provided.

Candidates must attend the examination centre at the specified time and must stay for the duration of the day in order to maintain the integrity of the exam. There may be rest periods/stations during the day. There will be a designated room/area for these periods and candidates may not leave the centre unless told otherwise by the Exam Centre Coordinator on the day.

Course material/notes may not be brought into the OSCE or MCQ stations.

Mobile phones must be switched off during the exam periods.

Lunch will **not** be provided to candidates.

Breaches of Security

If any candidate is found to be in breach of the security and/or integrity of the exam, they will be asked to leave and their exam will be null and void.

Pass Marks

Pass marks in all areas will be 80%; that is a mark of 80% must be achieved in the written paper and 80% of the marks must be achieved in each OSCE.

Results

Candidates will **not** be advised on the day of the exam whether they have passed or failed. They will be told whether they need to re-sit and part(s) of the exam, and which part(s) that will be.

Re-Sits

A candidate may be given one opportunity to re-sit no more than 2 OSCEs.

They should re-sit the same scenario with a different adjudicator.

Candidates will be given 10 minutes notice of re-sit(s) within which time they may prepare for all re-sits.

A candidate who scores less than 80% in the written paper may be given an opportunity to remediate if:

1. They have achieved more than 70% in the MCQ, **AND**
2. They have passed more than 3 of the OSCEs.

Anyone who does not successfully achieve the pass mark in the resits but is still within 5% of the pass mark may be offered, at the discretion of the EFR sub-group, an opportunity to resit one more time.

Results Notification

Candidates will be notified of results within **5** days of the exam completion date via email. Results are expressed as 'successful' or 'unsuccessful'. Individual marks/percentages awarded are not issued. Results will not be given by phone, fax nor in person.

OSCE stations and/or MCQ that a candidate has been unsuccessful on will be identified to a candidate for feedback purposes. This is the level to which the exam will be discussed. Scores awarded will not be discussed with any individual. The candidates will receive an email approx 5 days after their "Result" email outlining these stations.

At no time will individual results be discussed with the candidates.

A candidate who is deemed to have been 'unsuccessful' will be deemed to be Unsuccessful at the whole EFR course and must undergo another EFR course before going forward for another exam.

Appeals

Candidates and **only the candidates** may lodge an appeal either on the day in person or up to 5 days (via email to efr@redcross.ie) after receiving their results with "Appeal" in the subject line, appealing their result. These are the only methods of appeal; no other method or appeals from anyone other than the candidate themselves will be entertained. The appeal must outline the reasons and/or extenuating circumstances that the individual wishes the appeal group to take into account for their unsuccessful result. e.g. faulty equipment, felt that the examiner was being unfair or the patient was unco-operative.

The decision of the appeal lies with members of the EFR Sub Group and is final.