

EUROPEAN BOARD OF PHYSICAL AND
REHABILITATION MEDICINE

EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes



EXAMINATION PROTOCOL

OCTOBER 2021



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COMMITTEES

Examination Committee

Nikolaos Barotsis (chairperson), Helena Burger, Maria Gabriella Ceravolo, Rolf Frischknecht, Wim Janssen, Thierry Lejeune, Aydan Oral, Piotr Tederko, Stephen Zammit.

Standards Setting Committee

Franco Franchignoni, Alvydas Juocevicius, Angela McNamara, Xanthi Michail, Guy Vanderstraeten, Jean Michel Viton.

Examination Jury

Nikolaos Barotsis, Maria Gabriella Ceravolo, Nicolas Christodoulou, Rolf Frischknecht, Wim Janssen, Alvydas Juocevicius, Aydan Oral, Piotr Tederko, Mauro Zampolini and the National Managers of the countries in which the European Board of PRM Examination is integrated into the assessment process of a country's national education scheme for PRM specialists (written intermediate assessment, written final assessment etc.) and made compulsory.

Appeal Committee

Mauro Zampolini (chairperson), Nicolas Christodoulou, Alain Delarque, Alessandro Giustini, Crt Marincek.

ASSESSMENT RULES

Eligibility Criteria

The applicants must be physicians who have had their training in PRM in UEMS member countries and the associated countries participating in the PRM Section. Two situations are considered:

Qualified PRM specialists:

They must show proof that they are fully certified in PRM in their own country (National Certification in a UEMS member country or associated country) and present their professional curriculum vitae to the National Manager (the National Manager is the National Delegate in charge of the organization of, and has responsibility for the Examination in his country, has the responsibility for validating all the files of his national colleagues and manages all Certification procedures in his country).



PRM trainees:

PRM trainees can sit the EBPRM examination from year 3 of a specialist training programme at the discretion of the training programme director. Even if they pass the Board Examination, they will not receive the Board Certificate until they will be officially certified in their country. PRM trainees will be registered on a special list and their Certificates will only be given on proof of their Certification recognised in their country. This process is the responsibility of the National Manager and the Board Certification Secretary General.

Examination Fee

Regular Examination fee: 200 euros.

The examination fee is reduced to 120 Euro in countries where the BEx is mandatory because it is part of their national qualification system for PRM (those countries are Belgium, Malta, Slovenia, and Switzerland).

Candidates who have failed can sit the exam once more without further payment, provided that they sit the exam within one year from the year they failed. Candidates who were absent, will have the right to sit the exam within the next two years without further fee payment. A new application is mandatory in both cases.

Training Requirements and Curriculum

The Curriculum of studies in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation was approved by UEMS in 2018 and is a part of the European Training Requirements in PRM. The document is published on the official website of the UEMS PRM Section and Board and can be downloaded [here](#).

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Structure and Content of the Assessment

The examination of the European PRM Board is exclusively written, consisting in 100 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) with five options (best of five: four distractors and one correct answer). The questionnaire includes up to 80 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and no less than four clinical cases with 4 questions (Multiple Choice Questions) about each case. For all 100 MCQs, the answers are shuffled.

The examination questions are based on the learning objectives presented in the first 8 chapters of the Core curriculum for postgraduate PRM education, as detailed in the European Training Requirements in PRM published in 2018 and the Examination Blueprint for 2022 (both documents are available on the official website).



Language of the Examination

The language of the examination is English.

Duration of the Examination

The duration of the examination is 3 hours. The examination starts on the same date and time (last Friday of May, at 09:00am GMT) in all participating countries.

Application Procedure

The examination schedule and application deadlines are announced on the official website of the European PRM Board www.uems-prm.eu. The applications period opens five months before the examination, with a deadline set at two months before the examination. The candidates are very welcome to contact the National Managers of the European PRM Board for further details and any assistance required for their registration.

The applications are submitted through an electronic form available on the official website. Immediately afterwards, the candidate must present the registration file to the National Manager for verification and validation. The registration file will be returned to candidate after completion of certification procedure. The Registration file consists of the following documents:

- Copy of fee payment receipt,
- Copy of the registration – application (sent to the candidate by email at the submission of the application),
- Logbook duly completed and signed by the local Director of Training and
- the National PRM Qualification (for qualified PRM doctors).

The National Manager will examine the registration file and certify that training and National qualifications have been done according to National and European standards and criteria.

Mode of Delivery

The examination is computer-based. The examinees are physically invigilated. The local organization of the examination in each participating country is under the responsibility of the National Managers of the European Board of PRM. Depending on the country, the examination is either taken in computer rooms or examination venues using the own laptops of the candidates. In all cases, special software is used to block the computer from accessing unauthorised local or remote resources and prevent cheating.



Archiving

Examination data, including all aspects of the organisation of European postgraduate medical assessment and the results of the examinations are kept in a permanent electronic and properly secured database. The database is accessible by the Presidents and the Secretaries of the Board.

SCORE CALCULATION PROCEDURE

Each correct question receives one point. There is no penalty or negative scoring for wrong answers. The examination is computer-based, and the score is automatically calculated by the examination platform. In case the Jury decides to exclude problematic questions, based on the post-hoc analysis of the examination, the scores are recalculated, and the candidates are regraded accordingly.

PASS-FAIL DECISION CRITERIA

The cut-off of the examination is decided by the Examination Jury, on the recommendations provided by the Standards Setting Committee, according to the modified Angoff and Beuk methodology. The meeting of the Jury is scheduled two to four weeks after the examination.

The rate of pass/failure since the establishment of the assessment depends on the cut-off set by the Examination Jury. It remained relatively steady along the last 10 years, as reported below, with a mean pass rate of 84% (+/- 3,9) and a median value of 85 (range: 78-89)

YEAR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N. participants	78	81	84	98	110	112	92	115	77	100
Success rate (%)	86	88	81	86	87	89	78	78	82	84
Median mark (only successful participants)	68	67	67	67	69	72	68	67	68	62
Median mark (all participants)	68	66	64	63	66	71	63	63	66	61
Cut-off score	54	56	54	51	55	59	58	59	59	50



COMMUNICATION OF THE RESULTS

After the Jury meeting the candidates' results are presented to the Board Executive Committee, for confirmation. Then, the results of the examination (in the form of passed or failed) will be sent by email by the Examination Secretary to each National Manager. The final score and the performance to the single questions are not revealed to the candidates. The National Managers in turn notify the candidates of their results by telephone and request a copy of their National Certification in PRM to the final year trainees who passed the examination. The National Managers will retain the Diploma of the final-year trainees until they receive the copy of their National Certification.

Counselling of the failed candidates

Within a month from the announcement of the results, the failed candidates can request the breakdown of their results. Failed candidates will be informed through their National Manager about their performance in each PRM knowledge domain, compared to the average performance of all participants.

Number of permitted attempts by candidates

The European PRM Board Examination does not apply any limitation to the permitted attempts by the candidates.

THE APPEAL PROCEDURE

Grounds for an Appeal

The grounds for an appeal should be limited to procedural irregularity, examiner misconduct, administrative errors or extenuating circumstances that have adversely affected the candidate's performance. Any illness affecting performance must be declared to the National Manager and Certification Secretary General before the examination, and supported by a timely medical certificate (supplied within five working days).

The application form can be downloaded from the official website of the European PRM Board and must be sent by the candidate by email to the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee the latest 30 days after the dissemination of the results. Legitimate grounds for appeals need to be clarified. The payment of the full fee for an appeal (€100) needs to be made in advance of a formal appeal hearing. The fee is reimbursed to the applicant only if the Appeal Committee accepts the Appeal



POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

Statistical validity analysis

The following statistical parameters are calculated when performing the primary statistical validity analysis of questions:

1. The level of difficulty of the questions.
2. The discriminative power of the questions.
3. Option Analysis: the response rate each option received was analysed to detect potential issues with the key and plausibility of distractors.
4. The general reliability (internal consistency) of the assessment.

Clinical validity analysis

Questions presenting validity issues in the primary statistical analysis are referred to the examination committee and the panel of experts of the Board, for the clinical validity assessment. The panel examines all items presenting validity issues in the primary statistical analysis and elaborates specific recommendations to the Examination Jury.

Both the primary and secondary analyses are presented to the Examination Jury before releasing the results.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE EXAMINATION

National Managers' and Candidates' Feedback

The feedback of the National Managers and Candidates is collected after the examination and is presented to the Examination Jury. The survey includes questions on organisational issues and the scientific aspects of the examination. Candidates' survey is anonymous.

The SWOT Analysis

The Examination Committee implements a SWOT analysis of the examination on an annual basis, to ensure a thorough quality management system and the continuous quality improvement.

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SELECTION OF EXAMINATION QUESTIONS AND EXAMINERS

Examiners and the Question Making Procedure

The question makers (examiners) are recruited yearly with an open call for vacancies. The selection is performed by the examination committee. The examiners are trained and assessed each year, according to the guidelines for examiners issued by UEMS-CESMA.

The questions provided by the examiners undergo an extensive review and eventually revision by the examination committee, before being included to the question bank.

The Selection of Examination Questions

The selection of the questions for the examination is done by the Question Bank Committee (President, Past President and Incoming President of the Board, assisted by experts appointed according to the provisions of the Board rules of procedures). The majority of the questions are new ones provided by the examiners (i.e. not used in previous examinations). A smaller percentage of questions comes from the question bank of previous years exams. The role of the committee is to ensure the creation of a well-balanced set of questions, according to the Examination Blueprint.

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