National Training Requirements

AUSTRIA

Specialty
Pharmacology and Toxicology

"Fachärztin/Facharzt für Pharmakologie und Toxikologie"
(Medical Specialist in Pharmacology and Toxicology)

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NMA responsible for training:	Austrian Medical Chamber *(Österreichische Ärztekammer)*

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1. Introduction and Disclaimer

The diploma "Medical Specialist in Pharmacology and Toxicology" (*"Fachärztin/Facharzt für Pharmakologie und Toxikologie"*) is issued by the Austrian Medical Chamber (*Österreichische Ärztekammer*). The training of these medical specialists is governed by Austrian federal law (Regulations for the Training of Physicians 2015; *"Ärztinnen-/Ärzte-Ausbildungsordnung" 2015*[1)]). The current document was prepared by the Austrian Pharmacological Society (APHAR) as a faithful description of the current legal framework regarding the training of Medical Specialists in Pharmacology and Toxicology in Austria, but is not in any way a legally binding document. All current regulations can be obtained directly from the Austrian Medical Chamber who is solely responsible for executing these regulations.

2. Regulations for the Diploma "Medical Specialist in Pharmacology and Toxicology"

The medical specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology was legally introduced by the Regulations for the Training of Physicians 1994. Training requirements were modified in 2006 (most notably by the introduction of a formal examination) and again in 2015 (mainly restructuring the training in a modular fashion).

2.1 Training Regulations 1994–2006

Training in the medical specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology covers a period 6 years in total. These 6 years were divided into 3 parts: 4 years of training in the main specialty, i.e. Pharmacology and Toxicology, 6 months of training in Internal Medicine, 12 months of training in any one or more of a list of 25 clinical and non-clinical specialties (not including Pharmacology and Toxicology or Clinical Pharmacology) of not less than 3 months duration each, and 6 month of training in any of the 43 medical specialties listed in the Training Regulations 1994. Thus, Medical Specialists in Pharmacology and Toxicology recognised by the Austrian Medical Chamber according to the Regulations for the Training of Physicians 1994 were trained in Pharmacology and Toxicology for a minimum of 4 years and a maximum of 4.5 years before receiving the diploma as Medical Specialists in this discipline.

Pharmacologists who had received or started their training before March 1994 where eligible for the diploma if documentation of training in Pharmacology and Toxicology for a total period of 6 years was provided. Training contents of the Training Regulations 1994 applied.

2.2 Training Regulations 2006–2015

The total duration of training (6 years), the minimum period of training in the main specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology (4 years) and in the secondary specialties (2 years, which could include up to 6 months in Pharmacology and Toxicology) are the same as in the Regulations for the Training of Physicians 1994. The total training in Pharmacology and Toxicology thus also is 4 to 4.5 years.

The important difference to the Training Regulations 1994 was the introduction of a formal final exam for Medical Specialists. The exam requirements and regulations are described further below.

2.3 Current Training Regulations since 2015

The Regulations for the Training of Physicians 2015 reformed the training regulations of all recognised medical specialties in Austria. The 'secondary specialties' that were required in the previous training regulations were reduced to 9-months on the grounds that all Medical Schools in

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[1)] *Federal Law Gazette, Bundesgesetzblatt BGBl. II Nr. 147/2015 i.d.g.F.*

Austria had introduced one year of intensive clinical training in the pre-graduate curriculum for medical doctors.

Thus, the post-graduate training in the medical specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology starts with a 9-month training in Internal and Surgical disciplines, followed by 5 years and 3 months training in Pharmacology and Toxicology. The training in Pharmacology and Toxicology is separated into a 3-year period of 'Basic Training', which is common for all trainees in this specialty, and a further 2-year period, which contains 27 months of 'Specialised Training' where trainees must choose 3 out of 6 'elective modules' of 9 months each; the remaining 9 months to complete the full 6 years of training is a 'Scientific Module' which is common to all medical specialties.

2.4 Current Contents of Training

The content of training for Medical Specialists in Pharmacology and Toxicology is based on the description of this profession as defined by the Regulations for the Training of Physicians 2015:

"The medical specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology encompasses the research on the effects of drugs and harmful substances in animal experiments, in humans and in the environment, the investigation of absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination of active substances, the collaboration in the development and utilisation of new drugs as well as in the assessment of their therapeutic value, the participation in the detection and assessment of the risk of harmful substances, the counselling of physicians regarding drug therapy and in cases of intoxication, as well as formal assessments or reports."

The training contents from Regulations 2015 are detailed in 3. Training Content (Regulations for the Training of Physicians 2015).

2.5 Requirements for Training Institutions

The Regulations for the Training of Physicians require that for each pharmacologist in training at least one Medical Specialist in Pharmacology and Toxicology must be employed full-time in the institution where the training is to be given. Heads of departments, even if Medical Specialists in Pharmacology and Toxicology, do not count towards this requirement.

Trainees do not necessarily have to receive all their training in one single institution, but can receive training in different institutions, provided that each of these departments is recognised as a training institution for the respective medical specialty by the Austrian Medical Chamber.

2.6 Documentation of Training Content

All trainees in a medical specialty have to maintain a 'structured logbook' (*"Rasterzeugnis"*) listing all training requirements for the respective medical specialty as defined by the Regulations for the Training of Physicians. The structured logbooks are defined in a legal enactment by the Austrian Medical Chamber (Regulations on Knowledge, Experiences and Skills and Structured Logbooks; *"KEF und RZ Verordnung"*).

Completed training items must be confirmed by the training institution for each item in the structured logbook. Only applicants who submit a completed structured logbook to the Austrian Medical Chamber and who have also completed are required training periods in the main specialty itself (Pharmacology and Toxicology) as well as in other medical fields (Internal Medicine, Surgery and the like as defined by the respective Training Regulations) are considered by the Austrian Medical Chamber.

2.7 Formal Exam

Introduced by the Regulations on the Training of Physicians 2006, each trainee having completed his/her training under these regulations must pass a formal oral exam.

The exam in Pharmacology and Toxicology is a structured oral examination before a board of examiners. While for most clinical specialties, the examination boards only are composed from specialists from the respective specialty, 'small' specialties were grouped together in several exam groups. Pharmacology and Toxicology thus is grouped together with Immunology, Serology and Transfusion Medicine, Pathophysiology, Physiology, and Medical Performance Physiology (Sports Physiology).

The examination board of 3 members consists of 1 main examiner (a specialist in Pharmacology and Toxicology registered by the Austrian Medical Chamber), 1 head of the examination board (currently also a Specialist in Pharmacology and Toxicology) and 1 further member from any one of the specialties from the exam group.

All questions to be asked in the exam (6 case descriptions with 5 to 7 questions to each) must be prepared in advance by the Austrian Pharmacological Society and must be supplied to the Austrian Medical Chamber together with expected correct answers and a list of rules how points for correct answers are to be determined.

The content of the exam (the entire exam should equally contain most areas of pharmacology and toxicology) is given in the "Blueprint" for the exam: see 4. Blueprint for Examination (Austrian Academy of Physicians / APHAR)

The detailed rules for all exam procedures are given in 5. Examination Guideline (Austrian Medical Chamber)

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3. Training Content (Regulations for the Training of Physicians 2015)

Note: According to the law Regulations for the Training of Physicians 2015 ("Ärztinnen-/Ärzte-Ausbildungsordnung 2015")[2] the training in all medical specialties recognised in Austria starts with a clinical "Common Trunk", i.e. a basic training in Internal Medicine and Surgery, followed by the training in the respective medical specialty. The training in the medical specialty begins with a "Basic Training" of 36 months, which contains training in those areas of the specialty that every specialist of that particular specialty must receive. The Basic Training is followed by a 27-month period of "Specialised Training" where trainees have to choose 3 out of a list of 6 specialised "Modules" plus a compulsory "Scientific Module" (the list of training contents of this is common to all medical specialties). Training contents (Basic Training and Specialised Modules) are listed in Appendix 24 of the Regulations for the Training of Physicians 2015, the content of the compulsory Scientific Module is listed in Appendix 34 of the aforementioned law.

The content of training in the medical specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology is defined in the Regulations on Knowledge, Experiences and Skills and Structured Logbooks[3] of the Austrian Medical Chamber.

Training Regulations 2015 (translated by the Austrian Pharmacological Society APHAR):

3.1 Basic Training (36 months)

A) Knowledge

1. Methods of standardisation and biological tests
2. Biometrical Methods
3. Drugs, toxins and pollutants in body fluids, in the human body and in the environment
4. Substances that occur in air, water or in food as either unavoidable residues, or are added for particular reasons or that occur as natural metabolites, and which cause adverse effects including, in particular, allergies
5. Diseases caused by the environment and the work environment
6. Clinical drug trials in humans, including the ethical foundations of the experimental procedure involving humans in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
7. Ethical principles of the use of animal testing in accordance with the Principles for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, as well as the relevant legislation
8. Principles of physical and chemical methods of measurement as well as methods of isolation and detection commonly used in pharmacology and toxicology
9. Special features of gender and age relevant for the exercise of the medical specialty
10. Reporting system for drug risks, pharmacovigilance
11. Pharmacoeconomics, optimisation of therapy by utilisation of efficiency reserves
12. Principles of the methods used in the biomedical sciences

B) Experiences

1. Pharmacology and Toxicology with particular reference to resorption, metabolism, distribution and elimination of drugs, toxic substances and pollutants

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[2] *Federal Law Gazette, Bundesgesetzblatt BGBl. II Nr. 147/2015 i.d.g.F.*

[3] *Verordnung der Österreichischen Ärztekammer über Kenntnisse, Erfahrungen und Fertigkeiten in der Ausbildung zur Ärztin für Allgemeinmedizin/zum Arzt für Allgemeinmedizin und zur Fachärztin/zum Facharzt, sowie über die Ausgestaltung und Form der Rasterzeugnisse, Prüfungszertifikate und Ausbildungsbücher (KEF und RZ-V 2015), Anlage 24.*

2. Pharmacology of drugs:
   – pharmaceutical principles, galenics
   – principles of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacogenetics
   – kinetics of therapeutic effects
   – adverse drug effects and dose-response relationships
   – interaction with other drugs, foods
3. Pharmacology of the various stages of life and of gender
4. Toxicology of:
   – drugs, environmental pollutants and toxins, and their impact on humans including
   – kinetics of effects and dose-response-relationships
   – pharmacological principles of the therapy of intoxications
5. Pharmacological appraisal of adverse drug effects and interactions
6. Quality assurance and documentation specific for the specialty
7. Pharmacological and toxicological assessments/reports

C) Skills (quantity[4])

1. Quality assurance and documentation specific for the specialty
2. Written summary, documentation and assessment of courses of disease, as well as prognoses derived therefrom (ability to write reports, assessments etc.) 10
3. Pharmacological and toxicological assessment/reports 5
4. Providing information and advice to physicians

3.2 Specialised Training (27 months)

3.2.1 Elective Module 1 (Pharmacological Mechanisms of Action)

A) Knowledge

1. Fundamentals and consequences of pharmacological mechanisms of action

B) Experiences

1. Fundamentals and consequences of pharmacological mechanisms of action

C) Skills (quantity)

1. Experimental studies of biological mechanisms of action of drugs, toxic compounds and pollutants
2. Experimental studies of the biological, biochemical and biophysical properties of molecules and structures, which are targets of effects of drugs, toxic compounds and pollutants, including methods of genetics and molecular biology 10
3. Creation and experimental investigation of genetically modified organisms including laboratory animal science
4. Experimental investigation of pharmacophores using computer-aided methods

[4] *'Quantities' ("Richtzahlen") given in the Regulations on Knowledge, Experiences and Skills and Structured Logbooks ("KEF und RZ Verordnung" 2015) of the Austrian Medical Chamber are guidance values of how many times the trainee is expected normally to have performed the respective task independently; where no number is given the respective skill must be trained to an extent that allows the independent performance of the skill (KEF und RZ V 2015 § 3 Abs. 4).*

5. Experimental research techniques using isolated cells, organs and animal models
6. Physical and chemical methods of isolation and detection including enzymatic, molecular biology and isotope techniques — 10

3.2.2 Elective Module 2 (Pharmacodynamics)

A) Knowledge

1. Fundamentals of pharmacodynamics

B) Experiences

1. Fundamentals of pharmacodynamics

C) Skills — (quantity)

1. Experimental studies of the pharmacodynamic properties of drugs, toxic compounds and pollutants
2. Establishing dose-response relationships and interactions with other drugs, foods and toxic compounds — 5
3. Experimental investigations of consecutive effects following immediate effects of drugs
4. Transplantation of autologous or xenobiotic tissues or cells (design and execution for pharmacodynamics purposes) including laboratory animal science
5. Behavioural pharmacology including laboratory animal science
6. Physical and chemical methods of isolation and detection including enzymatic and isotope techniques — 10
7. Experimental research techniques:
   – on isolated cells or organs
   – in laboratory animals including laboratory animal science

3.2.3 Elective Module 3 (Pharmacokinetics)

A) Knowledge

1. Fundamentals of pharmacokinetics and their application in pharmacotherapy

B) Experiences

1. Fundamentals of pharmacokinetics and their application in pharmacotherapy

C) Skills — (quantity)

1. Experimental studies of the pharmacokinetic properties of drugs, toxic compounds and pollutants
2. Design and execution of pharmacokinetic studies in laboratory animals including laboratory animal science — 5
3. Experiments to investigate metabolism, absorption and distribution of drugs in cells and organs — 5
4. Experiments to investigate distribution and fate of drugs in the human body — 5
5. Experimental studies of interactions of drugs, toxic compounds or pollutants

6.	Physical and chemical methods of isolation and detection including enzymatic and isotope methods	5

3.2.4 Elective Module 4 (Toxicology)

A) Knowledge

1. Fundamentals of toxicology and their application in pharmacotherapy

B) Experiences

1. Fundamentals of toxicology and their application in pharmacotherapy

C) Skills		(quantity)
1.	Investigation of drugs which may cause toxic effects or allergies	
2.	Establishing dose-response relationships and interactions with other drugs, foods and toxic compounds	
3.	Experimental investigations of consecutive effects following immediate effects of drugs	10
4.	Establishing kinetics of effects of drugs	
5.	Behavioural pharmacology	
6.	Experimental studies on the therapy of intoxications	10
7.	Immunotoxicology	
8.	Physical and chemical methods of isolation and detection	
9.	Experimental research techniques: – in isolated cells or organs – in laboratory animals including laboratory animal science	

3.2.5 Elective Module 5 (Pharmacology/Pharmacotherapy of Gender and Stages of Life)

A) Knowledge

1. Fundamentals and consequences of pharmacology/pharmacology of gender and stages of life

B) Experiences

1. Fundamentals and consequences of pharmacology/pharmacology of gender and stages of life

C) Skills		(quantity)
1.	Pharmacotherapy of the various stages of life with particular reference to – Geriatrics – Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine	
2.	Pharmacogenetics: Investigations for the determination of genetic variants with pharmacologically relevant consequences	
3.	Gender Pharmacology	
4.	Gender-specific special features in pharmacotherapy with reference to – gender-specific pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics – therapy of gender-specific diseases	

3.2.6 Elective Module 6 (Clinical Pharmacology)

A) Knowledge

1. Fundamentals and clinical pharmacology

B) Experiences

1. Fundamentals and clinical pharmacology

C) Skills (quantity)

1. Principles of the pharmaceutical, pre-clinical and clinical development of novel drugs
2. Design and Evaluation of interventional and observational studies
3. Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics evaluation of clinical studies
4. Assessment of drug risks, particularly of side effects and interactions
5. Counselling regarding preparation, indication, execution and risks of drug therapies, and examinations in connections with drug applications
6. Reporting system for drug risks, pharmacovigilance
7. Interdisciplinary identification and assessment of
   – unwanted side effects of drugs
   – dose-response relationships
   – interactions with other drugs, foods
   – individual, patient-centred optimisation of drug therapy

3.2.7 Obligatory Scientific Module

A) Knowledge

1. Biomedical ethics
2. Good Scientific Practice
3. Clinical and Experimental study designs
4. Philosophy of Science
5. Statistical methods

B) Experiences

1. Writing an abstract, a scientific presentation or publication
2. Scientific project/time management
3. Statistics
4. Choice and use of methods for the research project

C) Skills (quantity)

1. Report of the research project: thematic subject(s)
2. Identification and choice of a biomedical/bioethical problem
3. Formulation and handling of a specific hypothesis
4. Writing a project application or project presentation
5. Planning of a project including time and financial management
6. Presentation of research results n written and oral form
7. Documentation of scientific data
8. Choice, appraisal and interpretation of suitable statistical methods
9. Defence of the research results in a peer-reviewed process

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4. Blueprint for Examination (Austrian Academy of Physicians/APHAR)

Note: The "Blueprint" defines the content of the formal examination of Medical Specialists in Pharmacology and Toxicology as required in the Austrian Federal Law "Ärztinnen-/Ärzte-Ausbildungsordnung 2015" (Regulations for Medical Training 2015).

The Blueprint is defined by the Austrian Pharmacological Society APHAR as the responsible Scientific Medical Society for the Board of Examiners of the Academy of Physicians ("Arztakademie") of the Austrian Medical Chamber. Examiners are appointed by the Austrian Medical Chamber on nomination by the Austrian Pharmacological Society.

Categories are not listed/numbered in any particular order of importance. The formal examination should comprise content requiring knowledge and competencies equally covering all categories.

Category 1: Pharmacology of the Central Nervous System

Morbus Parkinson, Psychopharmaceuticals, Narcotics, Pharmacology of Sleep Disorders and State of Agitation, Antiepileptics, Analgetics and Co-Analgetics, Central Muscle Relaxants

Category 2 – Immunopharmacology and Chemotherapy

Drugs acting on the Arachidonic Acid System, Antiphlogistics, Immunotherapeutics, Antibiotics and Basics of Antibacterial Therapy, Anti-Tumour Drugs, Antimykotics, Antiviral Drugs, Antiprotozoals

Category 3 – Metabolism and Endocrinology

Lipid Metabolism and Lipid-Lowering Agents, Pharmacology of Energy Metabolism, Glucose Metabolism and Purine Metabolism, Hypothalamic and Pituitary Hormones, Thyreoid Hormones, Sexual Hormones, Hormones of the Suprarenal Gland, Calcium Metabolism, Iron and Vitamines

Category 4 – Basic Pharmacology and Toxicology

Basic Pharmacodynamics and Pharmacokinetics, Drug Registration and Pharmacovigilance, Drug Risk Assessment

Category 5 – Cardiovascular Pharmacology

Drugs acting on the Heart and on the Vascular System, Pharmacotherapy of Hypertension and Hypotension, Diuretics, Drugs affecting the Haemostatic System

Category 6 – Toxicology

Chemical Carcinogens, Heavy Metals, Organic Solvents and Alcohols, Pesticides, Plant and Fungal Toxins, Irritant Gases, Toxins inducing Methaemoglobinaemia, Toxicology of Tabacco Products, Halogenated Aromatic Carbohydrogens

Category 7 – Autonomous Nervous System and Neurotransmitters

Serotonin, Histamine, Pharmacology of Adrenergic and Noradrenergic Systems, Drugs acting on the Gastrointestinal Tract, Pharmacology of Cholinergic Systems, Local Anaesthetics

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5. Examination Guideline (Austrian Medical Chamber)

Note: The Specialty-specific Guideline for the Medical Specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology[5)] is issued by the Austrian Medical Chamber, based on the Law on Training of Physicians ("Ärzte-ausbildungsordnung"). (Translation Austrian Pharmacological Society APHAR)

5.1 Description of the Profession

The profession of Medical Specialists in Pharmacology and Toxicology embraces

1. The experimental study and evaluation of effects of drugs and toxic agents.
2. Investigation and evaluation of the pharmacokinetic properties of active substances (drugs and other agents).
3. Development and application of new pharmaceuticals, evaluation of their therapeutic value.
4. Development and application of new pharmaceuticals, evaluation of their therapeutic discovery and evaluation of pollutant risks.
5. Determination and evaluation of the risks of harmful substances.
6. Consultancy in drug therapy and in cases of poisoning, including formal assessments.

5.2 Objective and Content of the Examination

Objective:

The aim of the specialist examination is the proof of the competence to meet in a competent and independent manner the common demands for the specialist according to the description of the profession.

Proof of expertise in pharmacology and toxicology with the following main focus:

1. Assessing the effects of drugs and pollutants in the preclinical and clinical trials, in clinical pharmacotherapy or in poisoning cases.
2. Critical evaluation of scientific concepts: in particular, the ability to interpret and evaluate scientific findings based on the current doctrine should be assessed.
3. Evaluation of the therapeutic value of drugs (indications, efficacy, safety in use) and assessment of the risks posed by drugs and toxic substances.

Content:

The exam content is based on the training content according to Regulations for the Training of Physicians for the medical specialty Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Key Competencies:

1. Expertise in the testing of drugs and toxic substances, as well as in clinical pharmacotherapy. This is the assessment of drug and impact of toxic substances, the evaluation of the therapeutic benefit or the health risks posed by pharmaceuticals and toxic substances, and the justifications of therapy and study plans.
2. Evaluation of drugs (in preclinical and clinical studies) and experimental research on the scientific basis in pharmacology and toxicology, including documentation (e.g. publication) of the results obtained therein.
3. Advisory activities for physicians and patients on the basis of reliable scientific data.

[5)] *Fachspezifische Prüfungsrichtlinie für das Sonderfach Pharmakologie und Toxikologie (beschlossen von der Prüfungskommission im November 2001, in der Fassung Juli 2013).*

Classification: Categories → Dimensions ↓	Drug testing, Registration procedures	Experimental Basics	Evaluation of Drugs and Toxic Substances; Counselling
1.	Specific Pharmacology	Measurement methods	Specific Pharmacology
2.	Specific Toxicology	Laboratory methods	Specific Toxicology
3.	General Pharmacology	Preclinical testing	Adverse effects and interactions
4.	Research techniques	General Pharmacology	General Pharmacology
5.	Clinical testing	Documentation	Clinical testing
6.	Adverse effects and interactions	Standardisation	Cumulating toxins
7.	Standardisation	Biometrics	Environmental toxins and diseases
8.	Biometrics	Experimental devices	Legislation and ethical aspects
9.	Formal assessments	Specific Pharmacology	Rational Prescribing
10.			Information/Advice

5.3 Possibilities for Preparations for the Exam

The specialist examination should not simply assess textbook knowledge, but should check especially those skills that enable the specialist to independently and responsibly meet everyday needs due to his training.

Recommended Literature:

- Journal: Pharmainformation (last 5 years).
- Standard textbook of pharmacology and toxicology (e.g. Forth, Henschler, Rummel, latest edition).

5.4 Exam Method(s) and Procedures

- Method: Structured oral exam.
- Number of questions: 30 to 40 (= maximum number of points), divided into 6 case examples with 5 to 7 questions each.
- Length of exam: 5 to 10 minutes per case example, preparation time 5 minutes per case example, total duration 50 to 60 minutes.
- The number of examiners depends on the number of candidates.
- Approved aid: Austria Codex.

5.5 Rating

The assessment is rated exclusively as either "passed" or "failed". Candidates will be informed of the test results in writing within 8 weeks from the exam date. If the test results can be determined immediately at the end of the test, the result may be communicated to the candidates orally – independently of the written notice. Telephone inquiries are not possible.

5.6 Exam Commission

The Exam/Audit Committee is responsible for the selection of exam questions, conducting the audit, establish the pass mark and the quality of the exam questions. The Audit Committee consists of

1 Chairman, 2 members and 3 alternate members. (s. PO § 25[6]) The Audit Committee has been nominated for 5 years. Re-election is possible.

The members are:

Chairperson group 3[7]: …[8]
Vice Chairperson group 3: …
Member group 3: …
Deputy Member group 3: …

Expert Member[9]: …
Deputy Expert Member: …

5.7 Date of Exam / Repeat Tests / Place of Exam

The test takes place once a year, at the same time for all Specialist exams in the Medical Specialties Serology and Transfusion Medicine, Immunology, Pathophysiology, Physiology and Medical Exercise Physiology (Sports Medicine), at the same venue.

The number of attempts at the test is limited to 5 examinations taken. The last (fifth) test commencement will be held in the form of an oral examination in front of a board examination committee of three persons in the form of a structured, oral examination. (For details see the Regulations for Exams of the Austrian Medical Chamber § 11.a.)

Exam date, exam venue and time are published in a timely manner in the following media:

- Homepage of the Academy of Physicians: www.arztakademie.at
- Österreichische Ärztezeitung (Austrian Physicians' Magazine)

The registration form is available from the State Medical Chambers or from www.arztakademie.at

5.8 Quality Assurance

The quality inspection of test questions is made by the members and deputy members of the Audit Committee.

5.9 Contact for Candidates

Queries by candidates should be directed to the Austrian Academy of Physicians (*Arztakademie GmbH*). Inquiries will be forwarded to a member of the Audit Committee.

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[6] *Prüfungsordnung der Österreichischen Ärztekammer für die Prüfung zum Arzt für Allgemeinmedizin und die Facharztprüfung, 2006 (Regulations for Exams for General Practitioners and for Medical Specialists of the Austrian Medical Chamber 2006).*

[7] *Note: Group 3 comprises to the medical specialties Immunology, Serology and Transfusion Medicine, Pathophysiology, Physiology, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Medical Exercise Physiology (Sports Physiology)*

[8] *Note: Names of members of the board of exams are entered here each time the Austrian Medical Chamber appoints the position.*

[9] *Note: The expert member (or his/her deputy) is the main examiner and must be Medical Specialist in Pharmacology and Toxicology.*

6. Requirements for Continuing Professional Development

The current Regulations for the Training of Physicians require that each physician must engage in continuing professional development and must report these activities to the Austrian medical Chamber at intervals of at least every 3 years.

The Austrian Medical Chamber currently issues a CPD diploma covering periods of 5 years. For each 5 year CPD period at least 250 CPD credits of which at least 200 credits must have been obtained in medical education activities and at least 80 credits must be derived from live educational events.

Physicians not presenting evidence of sufficient CPD/CME activities within these 5-year periods face disciplinary action by the Austrian Medical Chamber.

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