



RESUSCITATION COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



RCSA Policy Statement # 35

ASSESSMENT POLICY

The Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa offers various locally and internationally accredited programmes that lead to a course completion card being issued. To achieve course completion status on any of the accredited courses, participants are required to successfully complete all assessments as stipulated for each course.

1. Eligibility for assessment

- 1.1 To be eligible for assessment on any RCSA provider course the participant must have satisfied the minimum course requirements in terms of attendance, skills practice, scenario practice and preparation.
- 1.2 Participants who have missed sections of a provider course may not undergo assessment and will be required to complete the missed components before being eligible for assessment.

2. Written assessment

- 2.1 All RCSA and AHA written assessments have a minimum passing score of 84%.
- 2.2 Participants who pass the written assessment with 84% or higher may be given the correct answers to the questions that they marked incorrectly.
- 2.3 Participants who do not achieve the minimum passing score of 84% may not be shown the correct answers to the questions they marked incorrectly but must be made aware of their score.
- 2.4 Participants who did not achieve the minimum passing score of 84% on a written assessment during the course will be allowed to retake the test a maximum of twice after the course. A re-assessment time that is mutually convenient for the participant and training centre / instructor should be identified. Such retests must occur within 90 calendar days of the course after which no credit will be given, and the course will have to be repeated before being eligible for further assessment.
- 2.5 The written assessment may not be written more than once on the same day as this does not allow time for remediation (i.e., additional practice sessions or opportunity to review the manual). This rule does not apply if the participant wrote the test at the beginning of the training day in which case, they will be allowed a re-attempt at the end of the training day.
- 2.6 All written assessments are to be proctored by an RCSA instructor and may not be administered without an RCSA instructor directly supervising the participants taking the test.
- 2.7 At the discretion of the Training Site running the training, RCSA course participants may consult with any of the AHA / RCSA published algorithms when completing the written assessment. Participants may not use or consult their provider manuals to complete the assessment.
- 2.8 All electronic devices (including cameras and cellular telephones) are to be switched off for the duration of the written assessment.
- 2.9 There is no strict time limit for the written assessments and instructors are encouraged to ensure that participants have sufficient time to complete the written assessments.

3. Practical assessments

- 3.1 Practical assessments are provided in the form of a scenario and in the context of a team-based approach.
- 3.2 Instructors will assess the team leader on a practical patient scenario. During this assessment, the rest of the team members will act on the instruction of the team leader only and will not advise nor prompt the team leader. The team leader will be assessed on his / her ability to assess a situation / patient using the systematic approach and on his / her ability to make appropriate decisions regarding the required care.
- 3.3 Practical grading sheets as published by the RCSA or AHA (per relevant course) will be used to grade participants in the practical assessments.
- 3.4 Participants who are found not yet competent on the practical patient assessment will be given a further opportunity (time permitting) to complete a second assessment on the same day.
- 3.5 Participants who are found not yet competent in the practical assessment will be allowed a maximum of 90 days to prove competency after which time no credit will be given and the course will have to be repeated. Such re-assessments will be at the discretion of the training site and at a mutually convenient time for the participant and the training site / instructor.

4. Moderation of assessments

- 4.1 The RCSA reserves the right to moderate all assessments conducted at its Training Sites and accredited instructors.
- 4.2 Moderations will conform to good practice guidelines and may be conducted by any RCSA affiliated Faculty Member upon request; or by the Training Site Medical Director (for ALS accredited Centres).
- 4.3 Course participants have the right to request moderation of any assessment before a final assessment decision is made.

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