

**MAHARASHTRA STATE COUNCIL FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
AND PHYSIOTHERAPY, MUMBAI**

**“Guidelines for Conduction of Occupational therapy
examination in COVID 19 Pandemic”.**



(Revised on 01/09/2020)

Maharashtra Mission Begin Again ...

The present pandemic, a very sudden, unusual, unprecedented and a situation with unpredictable future has masked the world with fear, has also affected the education system. In the bargain has challenged the continuity of students training, taking a toll on the precious time of their, psychologic, academic and cognitive growth curve. Though we anticipate it to be a passing phase, is very uncertain at this moment to make a dogmatic statement about when and how will the situation change?

The pandemic has taught us a lot to be geared to new situations and adapt to change in lifestyles and mindsets. One of the biggest areas for education fields are the providers of skill and knowledge to the beneficiaries are institutions and universities. In a situation of its kind, it is essential to deviate from the formal methods temporarily. Develop approximated and simulated methods that would be equally effective in teaching, assessing and yearly planning of the syllabi.

This year because the exams cannot be taken in the usual way, for the final year Occupational Therapy core subjects, which are clinical. There are various problems in taking exams. The first and foremost in hierarchy was the concern of the parents to send their wards from out of Mumbai to Mumbai for exams, the staying facilities, travelling problems and social distancing. They were also concerned about the evaluation of patients by students fearing that patients could be asymptomatic carriers.

The safety of examiners, students and patients is also important aspect of examination.

1. Process of practical exam:

III & IV YEAR LONG CASE:

- Practical exam can be taken on patients if the subjects are available.
- A subject for long case can either from the ward or outpatient department.
- In case a subject is not available because of any reason the other long case subject can be repeated OR a simulated long case with a detailed scenario can be given to student OR Video conferencing with a patient for history and evaluation/planning, intervention, demonstration of treatment techniques that should be done on that particular clinical condition using a model or an available subject.

SHORT CASE:

For short case any of the following can be used

- For the short case, either a stimulatory case or a small part evaluation on the long case which may be another patient can be given.
- Scenario based case and questions on the same.
- Demonstration of technique or treatment method.

EXAMINATION OF SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

In view of the pandemic the practical examination of second year will be conducted in the following manner

Subject: Ergo therapeutics

i) Muscle testing: Wherever possible, cases (patients) will be made available, with due precautions to ensure safety of both the students and patients. In the scenario that patients are not available, hypothetical cases will be provided and student will be expected to identify muscle grade and demonstrate the same to the examiners

ii) Demonstration of Transfer techniques: Student will demonstrate the transfer technique on models/dolls/peers

iii) Gait analysis: Student will be shown a video demonstrating an abnormal gait, Student will be expected to identify the abnormal gait pattern, and explain the different parameters

iv) Viva voce: Will be based on two questions related to the syllabus

In addition, the students will be graded for communication skills, as per the existing examination procedure

Subject: Occupational Therapy Diagnostics II

i) Splint Fabrication: Students will be allotted a splint. They will be expected to prepare the paper pattern of the same, identify the principles and demonstrate the donning and doffing of the same on self. All equipment will be sanitized after each person uses it.

ii) Fabrication of adaptive device: Students will be allotted an adaptive device. They will be expected to prepare the paper pattern of the same, identify the uses and demonstrate the same. All equipment will be sanitized after each person uses it.

iii) Hand function tests: Student will be shown picture/ actual model of Hand function tests from the syllabus. Student will be expected to identify the same and answer questions related to the same.

iv) Viva voce: Will be based on two questions related to the syllabus

In addition, the students will be graded for communication skills, as per the existing examination procedure.

EXAMINATION OF FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

FOT, ROM – On patients

MUSCLE POWER- group muscle testing on models,

Viva voce- related to subject theory and clinical reasoning for muscle power, ROM and Activity Analysis

DIAGNOSTICS

Splints – drawing of paper pattern

Tools- identification/ therapeutic use of tools and Splint materials.

Job Analysis- Choice will be given based on the curriculum.

Viva voce- - related to subject theory and clinical reasoning for Splint making, Tools and Splint materials and Job Analysis.

2. HYGIENE AT THE CENTER:

All sanitization precautions at the center will be strictly taken care of toilets, evaluation area and viva area.

All arrangements for social distancing will be done.

Mask- N95 or triple ply, gloves. Face shields, will be provided to patients, students and examiners, if needed PPE provision will be made, subject to need in individual cases.

All personal hygiene equipment will be disposed as per CDC guidelines.

Thermal scanners and pulse oximeters will be made available.

Medical fitness for students from GP not more than 2 days before the exam

Installation of exhausts/ Hepa filters in the examination area.

We request Google form for students of all the institutes (one common draft) taking their consent and readiness for exams. This form will be circulated to all the students a week before the examination, and will be required to be submitted at least 2 days before the exam.

3. Examiner Appointment

a. For GMC Nagpur

Since at Nagpur have only one college of Occupational Therapy and only two eligible examiners, it may be difficult for them to get the third examiner [external examiner], unless it is possible for any examiner to travel from Mumbai to Nagpur and vice versa.

In this condition the following is recommended:

Retired or resigned faculty of the past, who has been examiner in his /her tenure, be called from the city of Nagpur as an external examiner.

OR

b. City having more than one college of occupational Therapy

External Examiner can be appointed by local body from local MUHS affiliated college will examine the students.

Request for examiners from another local medical college from Nagpur for Anatomy and Physiology practical exams is suggested.

The mark sheet will be signed with digital signature and sent to the Convener for submission.

Students from outside state may be allowed to be evaluated on telemetry.

Deem to be University

The above clause 3(b) can be implemented for Deemed to be University.

- c. **Examiner for PG examinations:** In case of non-availability of the eligible external examiner within / outside state for post graduate examination for any subject, relaxation in the experience criteria shall be given for appointment of examiners. University approved PG teachers having experience more than two and half years can be appointed for such examination as one time measure for all universities of state.