

Modified Case based Discussion – Candidate Information

Updated December 2020



SIMG candidates assessed as Substantially Comparable are required to complete a series of Workplace-based assessments (WBAs) including three summative Case based Discussions (CbDs), in order to meet the [Substantial Comparability requirements for RANZCP Fellowship](#).

The CbD is an integral Work Based Assessment (WBA) tool used to assess Substantially comparable candidates during their 12-month Substantial Comparability Placement (SCP).

In response to COVID-19, The Substantial Comparability Assessment Review Panel (SCARP) in consultation with the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE) considered revisions to the current CbD format in order to allow the assessment to continue during this period in line with the recommended safety guidelines. The Committee acknowledge that though face to face assessments are optimal, it is currently not possible to ensure the delivery of face to face assessments during this period due to outbreaks, travel restrictions and quarantine implications.

Therefore, the SCARP is pleased to announce the implementation of a modified CbD assessment, using videoconference which will allow candidates to progress on the Substantial Comparability Pathway and comply with government health regulations to ensure the health and safety of candidates and Assessors. The modified CbD will be offered to all candidates on the Substantial Comparability Pathway moving forward, as an interim measure until such that Face to face assessments can resume.

The modified assessment will cover the same skills and competencies and will be assessed at the same standard but in a different delivery format. Some alterations to the assessment process are necessary however to facilitate the modified CbD.

The following outlines the modifications which have been made to the CbD format. This should be read in conjunction with section 2 of the Substantial Comparability Placement Handbook. If no modifications are detailed below, requirements in the [Substantial Comparability Placement Handbook](#) are applicable.

Location of the CbD

- Face to Face assessments will be replaced by videoconference assessments using Zoom
- Candidates are required to complete the CbD assessment at their workplaces. If this is not possible, candidates must contact comparability@ranzcp.org to outline barriers to completing assessments at their workplace and discuss alternative venue options.

Prior to the CbD

- Candidates will continue to prepare three cases from their current caseload for assessment.
- For each of the three cases, the candidate must prepare a succinct typed summary (no more than 700 words) including the presenting problem, psychosocial context and key features of assessment and management, discharge planning and long-term planning, as well as the candidate's involvement with the patient. This is unchanged from the standard CbD requirements
- In addition, Candidates will be required to submit a longer case synopsis for each of the three cases. The purpose is to ensure assessors have sufficient material to formulate questions to stimulate discussion in order to assess each domain. The longer case synopses must include a comprehensive clinical assessment, management and progress of the patient. It must appropriately address the individual domains assessed during the CbD (clinical assessment, treatment, collaboration, communication, and professionalism).
- Each synopsis is limited to between 2000-4000 words. It is stressed that candidates are **not** required to submit 4000 words for each. The maximum word limit of 4000 words for the longer case synopsis is available if required for more complex cases. These synopses should also be de-identified.

- The purpose of the longer case synopses is to replace viewing the medical file and provide Assessors with sufficient information to appropriately assess all domains.
- A [sample case has been developed for reference for candidates](#)
- Assessors will rate all written material submitted under the domain of Communication. In addition to providing sufficient information to facilitate discussion, the written material is the next best substitute for being able to view case note documentation and correspondence. Other options for some candidates are not appropriate as all candidates on the pathway are to be assessed using the same method.
- All case summaries submitted by the candidate must be de-identified and submitted via email to comparability@ranzcp.org at least two weeks prior to the assessment.
- Patient consent must be obtained for all CbDs. The completed [Case-based Discussion Patient Consent Obtained form](#) needs to be submitted via email to comparability@ranzcp.org with the three case summaries at least two weeks prior to the assessment.
- A test call with candidates will be conducted approximately a week prior to the scheduled assessment to check for any technical issues. Candidates must complete the test call using the computer which will be used for the CbD. The test call must be completed successfully prior to the CbD proceeding.

During the CbD

- Candidates must complete the CbD in a private room and confirm that no other person/s are present prior to the CbD.
- Candidates are required to display their Health Service Identification card for confirmation of identity.
- Candidates and assessors must remain on camera for the entire assessment.
- The CbD cannot be recorded by the candidate or the assessor.
- The assessor will lead a discussion of the selected case for up to 45 minutes (an increase of 15 minutes).
- If the quality of the connection is poor, the assessor may choose not to proceed with the CbD. In this instance, the CbD will be rescheduled by the SIMGE Team.

After the CbD

- A Zoom meeting will be scheduled approximately 15 minutes following the CbD for the candidate to receive feedback on their performance during the CbD.
- The feedback discussion must be completed in a private room with no other person present.
- It cannot be recorded by the candidate or the assessor.
- The College expects an appropriate standard of professional behaviour from the candidate, both during and after the CbD, including response to critical feedback and results.
- Candidates will be required to return page 11 of the Modified CbD Assessment Form to the College via comparability@ranzcp.org immediately following the assessment. Within this form, candidates are required to rate and comment on the quality of the Audio and Video connection experienced during the CbD.
- Candidate scores will be reviewed and confirmed by the SCARP at the next available monthly meeting.

Technical requirements

- Candidates are required to have the appropriate equipment to conduct a videoconference CbD. This includes:
 - a Personal Computer or Laptop (other devices such as Mobile Phones or iPad's are not recommended)
 - wired internet connection
 - noise cancelling headphones
 - a webcam connected to the computer
 - A device which can access zoom. Information on supported devices for Zoom can be found here – [Supported USB HID devices for the Zoom Desktop Client](#)

Third CbD waiver

Candidates from the February 2020 and September 2020 cohorts who complete their first and second summative CbD's and all other components of the Workplace based assessments (supervisor reports and 360 degree feedback) satisfactorily (Results of "Achieved" or higher across all domains assessed), they will be considered for the waiver of the third CbD on a case by case basis by the SCARP. Please note candidates who receive the waiver will still be required to complete all other requirements of the Substantial Comparability Pathway as outlined in [Substantial Comparability requirements for RANZCP Fellowship](#).

Please contact the SCARP if you have any questions relating to the process or requirements via comparability@ranzcp.org.