



OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD & NECK SURGERY EXAMINATIONS

Our residency training program prepares an in-house practice examination bi-annually. The exams consist of both written and oral components that are similar to the format of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada license examination. The purpose of such testing is to stimulate residents on reading and studying the required material of the specialty. It also allows the program director as well as residents, to monitor their progress accurately. The exams take place in the fall and the spring of each academic year.

Yearly, Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery residents across Canada write the National in-Training Exam (NITE). The NITE allows residents and program director to check their overall basic and clinical knowledge as well as compare results with their peers.

The topics for the in-house exams are divided throughout the five years of residency training as follow:

The biomedical sciences relevant to Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery include embryology, anatomy, histology, neuroanatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, pathology, microbiology, biochemistry, genetics, immunology, and pharmacology.

The clinical sciences relevant to Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery are divided in 8 domains or subspecialties: general otolaryngology, pediatric otolaryngology, otology, neurotology, rhinology, laryngology, head and neck, and facial plastic and reconstruction.

Schedule for in-house exams for Competence by Design (CBD) residents: (this schedule is subject to change)

PGY1 spring only: biomedical and clinical sciences of common otolaryngology diseases and emergencies

PGY2 fall: NITE

PGY2 spring: biomedical and clinical sciences of general otolaryngology and pediatric otolaryngology

PGY3 fall: biomedical and clinical sciences of rhinology, laryngology and NITE

PGY3 spring: biomedical and clinical sciences of otology and neurotology

PGY4 fall: biomedical and clinical sciences of facial plastics & reconstruction, trauma, head & neck oncology and NITE

PGY4 spring: biomedical and clinical sciences of all subspecialties

Timing for Royal College examination for certification:

PGY5 (residents normal cohort) spring 2020

PGY5 (started CBD as PGY2 in July 2017) spring 2021

All other CBD residents who started training after July 1, 2017 will be taking the exam in the fall of their PGY5, which corresponds to the end of the core of discipline stage.

As per the Royal College website, CBD will shift exams earlier in training.

<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/cbd/assessment/cbd-exams-e>

- Likely to the end of the core of discipline stage
- Successfully completing the Royal College exam will continue to be a requirement for independent practice. However, passing the exam at the end of the core of discipline stage will not lead to certification

The Royal College will only grant certification when the resident has successfully completed the transition to practice stage and has received sign-off from the program director and the postgraduate office at their medical school.

Residents need to review the overall goals, objectives, and competencies of the program located in chapter 3 of the resident's manual and the list of competencies on the Royal College Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery website. Both summarize what residents must know for exam preparation and certification.

<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/documents/ibd/otolaryngology-competencies-e>

The passing score for the in-house exams is 70%, as per the Royal College examination. Residents that score below 65% will need to schedule a retake of the exam within the following month.

It is highly suggested for PGY5 residents to participate in several practice oral exams. We recommend scheduling oral exams 3 to 6 months before the Royal College license examination. Group studying with other PGY5 is also beneficial as it will stimulate residents studying, sharing, and applying knowledge collaboratively. This combination of preparation better equips residents for their Royal College examination. Benefits from group studying do apply to the other levels of residents preparing for the in-house exams.

A list of resources for studying is included in the resident's manual chapter and on the resident's file called McMaster Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery in drop box.

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