

# Guidance for the Swiss Board Examination in General Internal Medicine

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## Introduction

The Swiss Society for General Internal Medicine (SGAIM/SSGIM) organizes the Board examinations for general internal medicine (GIM). The regulations of the Swiss Institute for Medical Education (SIWF/ISFM) of the FMH are mandatory for all Board Examinations:

<http://www.fmh.ch/bildung-siwf.html> – <http://www.fmh.ch/fr/formation-isfm.html>

### 1. The Board Examination for General Internal Medicine

The Board Examination in General Internal Medicine will be organized twice in 2018: On Tuesday, June 19, 2018 and on Thursday, November 08, 2018.

#### Registration

The dates of the examination and the registration period are published both in the «Schweizerische Ärztezeitung (SÄZ) – Bulletin des médecins suisses BMS» ([www.saez.ch](http://www.saez.ch) – [www.bullmed.ch](http://www.bullmed.ch)) and on the websites of the FMH ([www.fmh.ch](http://www.fmh.ch)) and the SSGIM ([www.sgaim.ch](http://www.sgaim.ch)). All registration forms and information material can be downloaded from the website for the Swiss Board Examination in General Internal Medicine:

<http://www.sgaim.ch/egim/>

#### Admittance to the examination

Admitted to the examination are only candidates with a Swiss or officially recognized foreign medical diploma (Weiterbildungsordnung, article 23). SGAIM/SSGIM will check by consulting the MedReg register of medical professions ([www.medregom.admin.ch](http://www.medregom.admin.ch)) whether the above mentioned criteria were met. In case a candidate has not registered yet in the MedReg, a copy of the recognized foreign medical diploma has to be presented. The final registration of a candidate is considered **valid only after** payment of the examination fee. It is strongly recommended to complete a **minimum of two years** of clinical training in General Internal Medicine before attempting the examination since the clinical experience will contribute greatly to the preparation for the exam.

#### Content and form of the examination

The examination is carried out in a written form and will test the knowledge and reasoning skills of the candidate in the field of GIM by means of multiple choice questions (MCQs).

### 2. Examination 2018

The 2018 examination consists of 120 multiple choice questions

The **MC-Questions** originate from the **Medical Knowledge Self Assessment Programs (MKSAP)** of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and from questions generated by Swiss specialists of General Internal Medicine. In MCQ a clinical problem is presented and the candidate has to select the most appropriate answer out of 4 or 5 possibilities. All MCQ are single choice questions in English.

After the examination, all questions are scrutinized for potential flaws with help of statistical analysis and comments from candidates. The Examination Board decides thereafter whether a question is accepted for the final result.

The content of the exam is structured as follows (the percentage may vary since many questions may fit in different topics):

### 120 MC-Questions

1. General considerations incl. prevention, palliative medicine, rehabilitation, health insurance and economics, ethics, statistics and questions not allocated to a subspecialty	14 %
2. Rheumatology, Allergy, Immunology,	9 %
3. Neurology, Psychiatry	7 %
4. Cardiovascular medicine	11 %
5. Endocrinology and metabolism	8 %
6. Nephrology	8 %
7. Gastroenterology and Hepatology	9 %
8. Hematology and Oncology	9 %
9. Infectious diseases	9 %
10. Pneumology	8 %
11. Intensive care	4 %
12. Dermatology	4 %

**Total Questions Exam**

**120 Questions = 100%**

### 3. Preparation for the examination

The MKSAP is helpful to candidates for preparation and for learning the handling of MCQs. This program may be ordered for a fee at the office of the SSGIM. The majority of **MCQs are chosen from MKSAP 15 – 17. Roughly a quarter of the questions originate from Swiss medical experts.** It is **recommended** to learn from **MKSAP 17**. If you study all parts of this edition (not only the questions), you will be able to answer also the questions from earlier MKSAP editions and the Swiss questions.

It is further **recommended** to consult one of the **usual textbooks**, e.g. «Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment», “Oxford Textbook of Primary Medical Care” or “Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine”.

### 4. Grading of the Examination

The minimal passing score of the FAP AIM is established by the examination committee as part of a content based assessment. The stability of the examination difficulty from year to year is assured through recycled anchor questions. Experience shows that 88 to 92% of the candidates pass the exam.

The candidates will get a feedback sheet containing the number of counted questions, the total score achieved, the score achieved in each subgroup and the percentile rank. There will be no grading. The exam will only be marked as passed or not passed.

The results can be disclosed within 6 - 10 weeks from the exam.

## 5. Legal Regulation

### Material permitted for use during the examination

The use of electronic devices such as mobile phones, handheld computers, laptops, etc. is not allowed during the examination. **Only dictionaries (no lexicons) in print size are permitted.**

In the question booklet, unusual words will be **translated** into French and German the supervising personnel will assist if there should arise any translating problems. The **normal laboratory values** are indicated on a separate sheet in the question booklet.

### Right to consult the dossier in the event of failure to pass

In the event of failure to pass the examination, you have the right to view a limited part of your examination documents. The aim is not, however, to allow candidates to learn from their mistakes. Rather, if you suspect an error on the part of the Examining Board which may have affected the result (pass/fail), consulting the dossier will allow you to confirm or verify your suspicions.

In accordance to Art. 56 LPMéd and given the nature of the examination (MC-Questions), you may only inspect the questions in dispute. The allowed time is limited according to the requirements of the Examination Board for human medicine. For all other queries, please refer to the «Instruction sheet for appeals against failed examinations for the title of specialist or for additional certification», which is sent to all candidates having failed the exam and may be viewed on the FMH home page.

<http://www.fmh.ch/bildung-siwf.html> – <http://www.fmh.ch/fr/formation-isfm.html>

Furthermore, the documents are made available solely for the purpose of consultation. Photocopying or copying them down in their entirety is prohibited. You are permitted only to take notes for the purposes of filing an appeal.

Consultation of the questions in dispute is carried out under the surveillance of a third party, which is responsible for drawing up a report on the consultation (date, times, procedure, etc.).

Candidates who have not passed the exam will receive together with the feedback sheet an information sheet containing instructions on how to get access to the examination documents and how to file an appeal with the Appeal Commission (see below).

### Deadline for appeal

Under the terms of Articles 27 and 58ss of the Regulations governing Postgraduate Training (RFP), you may file an appeal against the decision of the Examining Board with the **Appeal Commission** for Postgraduate Medical Titles (CO TFP, c/o Service juridique de la FMH, Elfenstrasse 18, Case postale 170, 3000 Berne 15) **within 60 days after the disclosure of the result.**

The appeal must be sent to the Appeal Commission in duplicate and in writing (**in German, French or Italian**), indicating the grounds and conclusions, citing evidence and bearing the signature of the plaintiff or his/her representative. If you wish to file an appeal, we advise you to follow the instructions on the aforementioned FMH instruction sheet. If no appeal is filed within the defined deadline, the decision of the Examining Board shall enter into vigor and may no longer be challenged or reviewed within the scope of the procedure for obtaining the title.

### Fees



If a withdrawal from the examination is notified before 14 days of the written exam, the examination fee is reimbursed with a deduction for administrative reasons. If the withdrawal takes place within 14 days of the written examination, the full amount remains due, independent of the reason for the withdrawal.

## Address of the field office

SGAIM/SSGIM  
Monbijoustrasse 43  
3001 Bern / Postfach  
E-mail [egim@sgaim.ch](mailto:egim@sgaim.ch)  
[www.sgaim.ch](http://www.sgaim.ch)

## Address of the President

Dr. Ulrich Stoller  
c/o SGAIM/SSGIM  
Monbijoustrasse 43  
E-Mail: [fapk@sgaim.ch](mailto:fapk@sgaim.ch)

(we cannot give any information by phone)

Berne, June 2018

Dr. med. Ulrich Stoller, President of the Swiss Board Examination

## Further documents:

Weiterbildungsordnung SIWF vom 21. Juni 2000 (letzte Revision 28. September 2017)

[https://www.fmh.ch/files/pdf19/wbo\\_d.pdf](https://www.fmh.ch/files/pdf19/wbo_d.pdf)

Réglementation du ISFM pour la formation post-graduée du 21 juin 2000 (dernière révision 28 septembre 2017)

Weiterbildungsprogramm vom 1. Januar 2011 (letzte Revision 5. Juli 2017) zum Facharzt für Allgemeine Innere Medizin:

<http://www.fmh.ch/bildung-siwf/fachgebiete/facharzttitel-und-schwerpunkte.html>

<http://www.sgaim.ch/de/weiterbildung/programm-weiterbildung-aim.html>

Programme de formation postgraduée du 1er janvier 2011 (dernière révision 5 juillet 2017) pour les Spécialistes en médecine interne générale:

<http://www.fmh.ch/fr/formation-isfm/domaines-specialises/titres-formation-postgraduee.html>

<http://www.sgaim.ch/fr/formation-postgraduee/programme-de-formation-postgraduee-mig.html>