Royal College of Physicians

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Certificate in Geriatric Medicine & Diploma in Geriatric Medicine

Additional Attempts Policy

The following policy applies to the Certificate in Geriatric Medicine (CGM) knowledge-based assessment (KBA) and the Diploma in Geriatric Medicine clinical examination, which is an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

As of 1 January 2014, the Royal College of Physicians has been required by the General Medical Council to limit the number of attempts permitted at their examinations to six. Previous absences or withdrawn applications do not count towards the six attempts permitted.

Candidates applying for further attempts beyond six at any part of the CGM or DGM will be required to submit a form supported by their educational supervisor[1] and training programme director[2] (or equivalents) confirming that sufficient educational progress has been made to merit an additional attempt.

The process is intended to place the responsibility on candidates to discuss their past and subsequent examination attempts with their educational supervisor, to locate areas of persistent weakness and produce and implement an educational plan designed to target these weak areas with a view to enabling the candidate to pass. The nature of the educational activities will depend on the educational needs of the applicant and would likely contain a mix of private study, in service training, and more formal teaching.

As a candidate, if you reach the limit of six attempts at the CGM[3] or DGM and wish to apply for an additional attempt, you should follow the steps below:

1. Discuss your past examination attempts with your educational supervisor (or equivalent), to locate areas of persistent weakness and produce and implement an educational plan designed to target these weak areas.

2. Once additional educational experience has been undertaken discuss with your educational supervisor (or equivalent) when you should attempt the examination again

3. Complete the additional attempt form. Your educational supervisor and training programme director will also need to complete the relevant sections.

4. Once the form has been received and verified by the RCP Assessment Unit you will be granted an extra attempt at the examination. You will then be allowed to apply for the examination in the usual way.

[1] See page 2 of this document for the definition of an 'educational supervisor'

[2] See page 2 of this document for the definition of a 'training programme director'

[3] Previous attempts at the DGM KBA do not count towards the six attempts permitted at the CGM KBA.

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The above process must be followed for each additional attempt beyond the limit of six.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the RCP Assessment Unit.

Definitions

Educational Supervisor

A trainer who is selected and appropriately trained to be responsible for the overall supervision and management of a specified trainee's educational progress during a training placement or series of placements. This person, together with the candidate, should review the candidate's previous attempt(s), discuss areas for improvement, and agree appropriate additional learning. If the candidate is not attached to any such trainer, their application can be supported by a consultant (or equivalent) as long as the consultant was part of the process of review and agreement for additional learning.

Training Programme Director

This is often a UK specific term, and the following definition is provided to help international candidates find a suitable equivalent:

A Training Programme Director has responsibility for managing specialty training programmes. They take into account the collective needs of the trainees in the programme and provide support for educational supervisors. They contribute to the annual assessment outcome process in the Specialty and ensure that there is a policy for careers management which covers the needs of all trainees in their specialty programmes and posts.

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