

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

OPHTHALMOLOGY EXAMINATIONS – IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Introduction

1. As a consequence of the implementation of Modernising Medical Careers (MMC), the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is revising its examination provision in Ophthalmology.
2. A time-chart of the sequence of events is attached at Annex A and is detailed below. Where applicable, details of any allowances for candidates with elements of the examinations of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists are also given.

Summary of main changes in examinations.

3. The existing MRCSEd (Ophthalmology) examination is being phased out.
4. The current FRCSEd Specialty Fellowship is being replaced by a new format FRCSEd Specialty Fellowship examination. This new format examination will not be accepted as a qualifying examination contributing to the award of the UK CCT.

Phasing out of MRCSEd.

5. The MRCSEd will be phased out according to the following timetable:
 - a. Part 1 – the last opportunity to sit Part 1 will be at the autumn diet 2007.
 - b. Part 2 – the last opportunity to sit Part 2 for the first time will be at the autumn diet 2008. The final diet for Part 2 will be for resit candidates only and will be at the spring diet 2009.
 - c. Part 3 - the last opportunity to sit Part 3 for the first time will be at the autumn diet 2009. The final diet for Part 3 will be for resit candidates only and will be at the spring diet 2010.

Phasing out the current FRCSEd Specialty Fellowship.

6. The last scheduled diet of the current FRCSEd Specialty Fellowship will be in autumn 2008. (Exceptional arrangements are in place for UK SpR trainees in post prior to August 2007).

Introduction of the new format FRCSEd Specialty Fellowship

7. The new format Specialty Fellowship examination will consist of three separate parts:
 - a. Part 1 – a multiple choice question paper on basic sciences foundational to ophthalmology. The first diet of Part 1 will be held in spring 2008.
 - b. Part 2 – a multiple-choice question paper on optics, ophthalmic investigative techniques and generic issues of medical practice. The first diet of Part 2 will be in spring 2008.
 - c. Part 3 (Clinical Skills Certificate) – a clinical refraction of one patient lasting 30 minutes and objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE) each lasting eight minutes. The first diet of Part 3 will be held in Spring 2009
 - d. Part 4 (Final) – this will have three components:

- i. Multiple choice paper (Single best answers)
- ii. Multiple choice paper (Extended matching items)
- iii. Multi-station clinical examination with structured vivas and structured clinical examination questions.

The first diet of Part 4 (Final) will be held in spring 2009

8. Accreditation between examination types,

Those candidates who have passed:

- a. MRCSEd Parts 1, 2 & 3 (ie full qualification) or the MRCOphth full qualification will be exempt from Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 FRCSEd and the written component of Part 4 (Final) FRCSEd. This exemption will be available until Dec 2012.
- b. MRCSEd Part 2 or MRCOphth Part 2 will be exempt from Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 FRCSEd until Dec 2012.
- c. MRCS Part 1 or MRCOphth Part 1 will be exempt from Part 1 FRCSEd until Dec 2012.
- d. Part 1 FRCOphth (from October 2006) will be exempt from Part 1 and Part 2 FRCSEd indefinitely.

Dr Brian W Fleck MD FRCSEd
Chairman Specialty Advisory Board Ophthalmology
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Annex A to Announcement on
Changes to RCSEd examinations in Ophthalmology

2007		2008		2009		2010	
Spring 07	Autumn 07	Spring 08	Autumn 08	Spring 09	Autumn 09	Spring 10	Autumn 10
	MRCS Pt 1 Last diet						
			MRCS Pt 2 Last chance for first attempt.	MRCS Pt 2 Last diet – resits only			
					MRCS Pt 3 Last chance for first attempt.	MRCS Pt 3 Last diet – resits only.	
		New FRCS Pt 1 and Pt 2 First diets					
				New FRCS Pt 3 and Pt 4 First diets			