

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE DIPLOMA OF MEMBERSHIP IN GENERAL DENTAL SURGERY (MGDS RCSED)

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GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. The Membership Diploma in General Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh may be granted to those who possess a dental qualification which is acceptable to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and who comply with the regulations hereinafter set forth.
2. The examinations for the Membership Diploma in General Dental Surgery are normally held annually and the dates of the examinations and the fees payable for admission are set out in the examinations calendar which is obtainable free of charge from the Examinations Department, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, The Adamson Centre, 3 Hill Place, Edinburgh EH8 9DS.
3. Application for admission to Part I of the Examination must be received no later than the closing date as indicated on the examinations calendar and it must be accompanied by the full amount of the fee payable.
4. Application for Part II of the Examination must be accompanied by the appropriate fee and the four fully documented case histories together with the verified details of the approved postgraduate educational courses attended by the candidate no later than the closing date as indicated on the examinations calendar.
5. Candidates who do not fulfil the normal entry requirements may apply for special consideration.
6. Candidates withdrawing from either Part of the examination must do so in writing. The examination fee will be returned, less 20% for administrative charges, or transferred to the next diet of the examination where written notice is received by the College prior to the closing date for receipt of applications. Half of the examination fee will be returned or transferred to the next diet of the examination where written notice is received not less than 21 days before the commencement of the examination. After that date no refund or transfer of examination fees will normally be made to candidates who withdraw from examinations or fail to attend for any reason whatsoever. **NO ALLOWANCE WILL BE MADE FOR POSTAL OR OTHER DELAYS.**

CANDIDATES MUST HOLD A CERTIFICATE OF SUCCESSFUL HEPATITIS B IMMUNISATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE COLLEGE.

7. Admission to Part I:

Candidates will be admitted to Part I of the Examination on production of evidence that they have been engaged in the clinical practice of dental surgery for not less than four years (or WTE) after obtaining a basic dental qualification.

8. Admission to Part II:

Candidates will be admitted to Part II of the Examination provided that they have:

- (i) successfully completed Part I of the MGDS RCSEd or an equivalent examination; or
- (ii) successfully completed the MFDS/MFD or MFGDP (UK) post 1998;
- (iii) been engaged in the clinical practice of dental surgery for not less than five years after acquiring a basic dental qualification, four years of which must have been spent in general dental practice or equivalent, eg service in the dental branch of HM Armed Forces or the Community Dental Service. Recognition may be given to appropriate MSc courses (or equivalent) approved by the Dental Examinations Committee on the recommendation of the Advisory Board in General Dental Surgery for this purpose by The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh;
- (iv) produced evidence that they have attended at least 150 hours of approved and verified dental postgraduate educational training in the four years immediately prior to the date of the Part II of the Examination;
- (v) received confirmation of acceptance of the four case histories relating to personally treated cases.

Note

- (a) candidates from overseas or candidates who do not practise in the United Kingdom should have their application to enter any Part of the examination countersigned by their Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Dental Regional Adviser or Postgraduate Dental Dean to confirm that they are personally known and that their standards of clinical practice are considered to be satisfactory;
 - (b) candidates may present for both Parts of the Examination at the same diet, providing they have completed the requirements of entry to each Part.
9. Candidates who desire to make representations with regard to the conduct of their examination must address them to the Examinations Department of the College and not in any circumstances to an examiner.
10. Council may either refuse to admit to the examination or refuse to examine any candidate who infringes any of the Regulations or any candidate who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

11. The examination shall consist of:

PART Ia*

- (i) Section (a) will consist of a written Paper I of three hours' duration, consisting of essay type questions;
- (ii) Section (b) will consist of a written Paper II of two hours' duration, consisting of 20 compulsory questions requiring short answers.

PART II

- (i) Section (a) will consist of an assessment of four case histories each describing a patient personally treated by the candidate;
- (ii) Section (b) will consist of a visit by two examiners to assess the candidate's practice, examine two of the four case history patients, and conduct an oral examination based on the four case histories and the conduct of the practice;
- (iii) Section (c) will consist of a clinical examination on diagnosis and treatment planning of approximately one hour's duration at an approved centre;
- (iv) Section (d) will consist of an oral examination of not more than 40 minutes' duration on any aspect of clinical dental surgery.

Note

- (a) candidates who fail the examination after acceptance of their case histories by the College may not be required to submit further case histories if applying for either of the following two diets;
- (b) candidates whose case histories are rejected at the initial stage of the examination will be debarred from proceeding further with the examination and a refund of 80% of the examination fee will be returned;
- (c) candidates failing to pass the visitation, examination of the case history patients and case histories examination will be informed and debarred from proceeding further with the examination.

There will be no refund of any part of the examination fee for such candidates;

- (d) candidates who are affected by an unforeseen change of practice location (e.g. Dental Officers in HM Armed Forces, Community Dental Officers and General Dental Practitioners moving within the General Dental Service) may appeal to the Examinations Department of the College if special arrangements

will be required for the inspection of practice premises and patients;

- (e) Following successful completion of Part I no more than ten years should normally elapse before entering for Part II.

***SEE EXEMPTIONS**

- 12. A candidate who passes the examination shall be entitled to the designation of Member in General Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (MGDS RCSEd) and shall receive a diploma bearing the seal of the College signed by the President, the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery and the Secretary of the College. The form of the diploma shall be as follows:

"The President and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh hereby grant the Diploma of Member in General Dental Surgery towho has completed the requirements and passed the necessary examinations."

- 13. Successful candidates will be granted Membership in the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the College on payment of such election fee and annual subscription as may be determined from time to time by the Council of the College. Members in the Faculty of Dental Surgery may participate in Faculty and College educational and social activities.
- 14. The Diploma is registrable with the General Dental Council provided that the name of the holder already appears in the Dentists Register. Particulars of registration may be obtained from the Registrar, General Dental Council, 37 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8DQ.

***EXEMPTIONS**

- (i) Exemption from Part I may be granted if in addition to the production of evidence that the candidate has been engaged in the clinical practice of dental surgery for not less than four years (or WTE) after obtaining a basic dental qualification the candidate has passed the Part I MGDS of another Royal Surgical College of the United Kingdom or Ireland;
- (ii) Exemption from Part I may be granted if in addition to the production of evidence that the candidate has been engaged in the clinical practice of dental surgery for not less than four years (or WTE) after obtaining a basic dental qualification the candidate has:
 - (a) passed Part I of the Fellowship in Dental Surgery, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh or its equivalent;
 - (b) passed the MFDS/MFD or its equivalent;
 - (c) passed the Membership of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) post 1998;
 - (d) passed an examination equivalent to Part I MGDS RCSEd which is approved both, by the Advisory Board in General Dental Surgery and the Dental Examinations Committee of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

- (iii) Subject to scrutiny and approval by the Advisory Board in General Dental Surgery an appropriate MSc (or equivalent University Degree) may provide partial exemption from the requirements of the MGDS RCSEd Diploma.
- (iv) Candidates who do not fulfil the normal entry requirements may apply for special consideration.

GUIDE TO CANDIDATES

SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION

The examination is designed to test all aspects of the clinical practice of general dental surgery including:

- (i) a knowledge of the aetiology, prevention and treatment of dental and oral disease, including the differential diagnosis, treatment planning, specific treatment and follow-up of patients pertaining to the clinical practice of general dental surgery;
- (ii) a knowledge of the principles of the basic medical and dental sciences and of human disease in general, relevant to (i) above;
- (iii) an understanding of radiology and the use of drugs, including anaesthetic agents;
- (iv) a knowledge of professional ethics, regulation and jurisprudence pertaining to the clinical practice of general dental surgery;
- (v) a knowledge of relevant current literature;
- (vi) the organisation and administration required to provide a comprehensive dental service;
- (vii) a knowledge of the hazards to which the patient or the operative team may be exposed during the provision of dental care in general practice, and the methods by which they may be minimised or avoided and the statutory regulations pertaining thereto.

PART I

- (i) Section (a), Paper I will consist of two questions on the clinical application of basic dental sciences and four questions on the clinical practice of dental surgery. Candidates will be required to give essay type answers for one basic science question and three of the questions on general dental surgery during a period of three hours;
- (ii) Section (b), Paper II will consist of 20 questions requiring short answers, all of which must be answered and for which candidates will be allowed two hours.

PART II

(i) **Fully Documented Case History Presentation (Case History)**

The fully documented case histories should contain appropriate illustrative material and each case history should describe the treatment of a patient within the candidate's practice. The case histories should relate to a wide range of clinical conditions. Each case history should demonstrate the candidate's ability to manage problems properly dealt within the clinical practice of general dental surgery, and the cases may display the areas of dentistry in which the candidate has special interests and skills.

Cases in which the advice of hospital consultants or other colleagues has been obtained may be included if most of the treatment has been carried out by the candidate and those items of treatment provided by other clinicians are clearly indicated.

No special emphasis should be placed on the selection of patients with rare or obscure conditions.

(ii) **Practice Visitation and Patient Examination**

Candidates will be informed of the acceptance or rejection of their case histories within approximately three weeks following the closing date for the receipt of submissions. Arrangements will then be made with candidates whose case histories are accepted by the College for two examiners to visit the candidate's practice and examine two of the case history patients. One patient will be selected by the examiners and the other by the candidate. The visit will normally take place approximately six weeks before the clinical examination.

Prior to the Practice Visitation the candidate will be sent a Practice Questionnaire to complete, return to the Practice Visitors, and to retain a copy. The Practice Visitors may discuss the questionnaire during the visit but its primary intention is educational and should alert the candidate to the expectations of the Practice Visitors.

Following the tour of the practice premises and the examination of the patients, the examiners will conduct an oral examination of the four case histories and the conduct of the practice, which will relate to organisation, facilities and standards adopted for radiography, sterilisation and prevention of cross-infection; equipment available and other features and impressions gained. The practice visitation and related oral examinations will not normally exceed one hour and 30 minutes, exclusive of breaks.

The examiners will submit a report to the College who will inform the candidate of the result of the practice visitation, patient examination and the associated oral examination.

(iii) **Clinical Examination**

The clinical examination is based on diagnosis and treatment planning for a patient with problems which may be encountered in general dental practice. Candidates will be allowed 30 minutes for their examination of the patient and a similar period will be spent with the examiners. The

clinical examination will be held at an approved centre and all appropriate records will be available.

(iv) **Oral Examination**

This Section will consist of an oral examination which will be conducted by not more than three examiners over a period not exceeding 40 minutes and it will relate to any aspect of clinical dental practice.

Candidates should note that these syllabii are indicative of the areas of knowledge expected of candidates. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to exclude other items of knowledge which are of similar relevance.

Notes

(a) **Approved Postgraduate Dental Education**

All candidates must present certified evidence of attendance at not less than 150 hours of approved and verified postgraduate dental education during the four years immediately preceding eligibility for the Part II Examination. Each hour claimed must have the approval of the candidate's Postgraduate Dean or Dental Regional Adviser of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and there should be a reasonable balance between attendance on postgraduate courses and meetings of recognised learned societies relating to a wide variety of dental topics;

(b) Each of the four cases presented should have a separate case history. Each case history should not normally exceed 5000 words (excluding appropriate appendices). All presentations should be typed and adequately bound. A robust, flat type A4 format book with clear PVC pockets, eg Bantex 3104 Display Book is recommended. Duplicate copies of each case history are required, one copy being made available to the College when requested, the other being retained by the candidate for reference in the appropriate sections of the examination;

(c) Radiographs, photographs, transparencies and any other presentation aids should be provided where appropriate and these should be clearly described in the text. The originals should be retained in the candidate's own case histories and copies used in the duplicate case histories, submitted to the College, must be of an equivalent standard;

(d) Each case history and associated illustrative material (eg radiographs, study models etc) should be identifiable, using coloured adhesive labels viz:

Case History 1: Red
Case History 2: Blue
Case History 3: Green
Case History 4: Black

(e) the candidate's name or initials must not be shown on the material;

- (f) Only the patient's initials, sex, date of birth and relevant social status should be shown;
- (g) The addresses of the candidates and the patients should not be indicated;
- (h) Each case history should give a brief description of the relevant history and the results following clinical examination and investigations adopted. The candidate should also give his/her assessment of the diagnostic features and discuss the treatment plan advised. Emphasis should be placed on the careful and complete assessment of the patient's needs in the light of all relevant circumstances. The candidate should refer to any further investigations and/or treatment which may be required and comment on any special difficulties which necessitated a modification of the initial treatment plan.

Each case history should end with an appraisal of the result of the course or courses of treatment, together with a discussion of whether the objectives were fully achieved. Candidates should also indicate if the results provided useful lessons which might influence the management of similar problems in the future.

Each case history should be accompanied by the following declaration signed and dated by the candidate and sealed in a separate envelope:

"I declare that the treatment of the case presented in this Case History is my own work except where otherwise indicated."