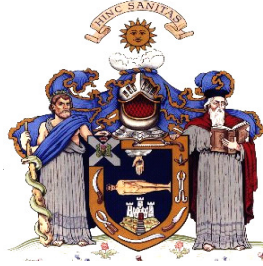


THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH



REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE DIPLOMA IN DENTAL THERAPY (Dip DT RCSEd)

January 2010

Regulations

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IMPORTANT NOTE: THESE REGULATIONS ARE UNDER CONTINUAL REVIEW THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CANDIDATES KEEP IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE COLLEGE TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. THE EXAMINATIONS SECTION WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE (00 44 (0) 131 527 1600) OR YOU MAY VISIT THE COLLEGE WEBSITE: www.rcsed.ac.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document contains the Regulations for the Diploma in Dental Therapy of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Further information can be obtained from the Examination Sections:

Examinations Section
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
3 Hill Place
Edinburgh EH8 9DS
Phone +44 0131 527 1600
dental.exams@rcsed.ac.uk
www.rcsed.ac.uk

2. PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION

Award of the Diploma in Dental Therapy of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh will indicate that the candidate has demonstrated that he/she has achieved the required specific learning outcomes of their Dental Care Professional (DCP) category as specified by the General Dental Council's publication *Developing the Dental Team – Second Edition (Interim) 2009* : www.gdc-uk.org

3. STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

The Examination consists of three parts:

3.1 Written component: This consists of two papers each of two hours' duration.

3.2 Case presentations: The candidate is required to present the clinical records of two patients whom he/she has treated. The examination consists of an oral examination of 30 minutes' duration.

3.3 Structured oral: this will be a structured oral of fifteen minutes in which the candidate is questioned over the breadth of the Learning Outcomes.

All parts of the examination are conducted in English.

4. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to enter for the Diploma examination all candidates **must** provide certified evidence of the following:

4.1 Having been engaged in a course of study of at least 120 educational credits* (1 credit equals 10 hours of education) in a School for Dental Care Professionals (DCPs) or equivalent establishment. Candidates will be expected to provide evidence of completion of their training signed by the Course Director. Courses and Schools for Dental Care Professionals must be recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Candidates may, however, enter

***Schools for Dental Care Professionals which do not operate a modular teaching system and whose course is therefore not recognised in terms of educational credits should submit a full timetable for the course to the Faculty of Dental Surgery, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW specifying the taught, clinical content and self-study components of the course (in hours) for approval. A pro-forma for course recognition is available from the Faculty.**

themselves for examination after 80% of the training programme is complete. The training should preferably be continuous but in some cases breaks in training may be permitted. The total training period should not normally exceed 2 years.

4.2 Successful completion of a Continuous assessment record in the form of a clinical log book will have to have been completed during the candidate's training. This should include a signed statement from the Course Director confirming that the work detailed in the log book has been completed to a satisfactory standard.

4.3 Registration with the General Dental Council as a dental hygienist.

5. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA

5.1 To be eligible for the award of the Diploma all candidates **must** provide evidence of having complied with all the parts of the Regulations and passed the examination.

6. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

6.1 Applications for admission to the examination must be fully completed with the required certified evidence and accompanied by the full amount of the fee payable for the examination.

6.2 Applications for admission to the examination can be downloaded from the College website and must be received by the closing date specified in the examinations' calendar. Applications received after the closing date will not normally be processed.

6.3 Applications for the examination should be sent to the Examinations Section of the College; application can also be made on-line on the College website. Further information regarding the examination can be downloaded from the College Website www.rcsed.ac.uk or obtained from this address:

Examinations Section, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, The Adamson Centre, 3 Hill Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9DS, Scotland: Telephone No +44 0131 527 1600; dental.exams@rcsed.ac.uk

6.4 Examinations for the Diploma in Dental Therapy will be held at such times as agreed by the Dental Examinations Committee.

7. RESULTS

7.1 Results will be posted on the College website and distributed by post.

8. FEEDBACK

8.1 Candidates will be given written feedback on their performance as appropriate and where requested.

9. LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS

9.1 Unsuccessful candidates will be eligible to re-sit the examination at future diets within 12 months of the first final examination date. Thereafter, it will be necessary for a candidate to provide evidence of further training before being eligible for further attempts at the examination.

10. INFRINGEMENT OF THE REGULATIONS

10.1 The College may refuse to admit to the examination, or may not allow to proceed with the examination, any candidate who infringes any of the regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination. Examples of such infringements are as follows:

10.1.1 Entry to the examination being attempted by making false claims about eligibility or falsifying entry documentation, including the submission of case presentations or a log book containing plagiarised or incorrect content. The College reserves the right to make checks to validate any information or documents supplied by the candidate;

10.1.2 Unfair advantage being sought or obtained: by possession of material or devices during an examination that might give advantage; by plagiarism of any description; by communicating or attempting to communicate with another candidate once the examination has commenced; or by refusing to follow instructions given by examiners or examinations staff regarding the conduct and procedure of the examination;

10.1.3 Removal of, or an attempt, to remove from the examination room, any confidential examination material;

10.1.4 Any attempt to obtain confidential information relating to the examination from an examiner or examination officials;

10.1.5 Passing confidential information on the content of the examination to a third party.

10.2 This list is not exhaustive. Further information can be obtained from the guidelines on suspected malpractice available on the College website: www.rcsed.ac.uk

11. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

11.1 Candidates wishing to lodge an appeal or complaint must do so in accordance with the College Examinations Complaints and Appeals Procedures. The full procedural document can be downloaded from the College website at www.rcsed.ac.uk or obtained from:

Examinations Section
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
3 Hill Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9DS
SCOTLAND
Phone +44 0131 527 1600
Email: dental.exams@rcsed.ac.uk

12. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EXAMINATION

12.1 Any candidate who wishes to withdraw an application for admission to any part of the examination must submit a request in writing to the College. A refund of the fee paid may be made (less an administrative fee of 20%), provided that notice of an intention to withdraw is received by the Examinations Section before the closing date by which applications are due, as shown in the examinations calendar. Refunds are not normally made to any candidate who withdraws after the closing date.

2.2 Any candidate who wishes to withdraw an application for admission to any part of the examination on medical grounds and request a refund must submit a request in writing to the College, accompanied by a medical certificate. An application for consideration of a refund on compassionate grounds should be supported by full details, plus a supporting letter from an

appropriate professional. Each such application must be submitted to the Examinations Section within 28 days following the date of the candidate's programmed examination date.

12.3 The College reserves the right to review admission to the examination on an individual basis in exceptional circumstances.

13. CANDIDATES WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

13.1 Special examination and other assessment arrangements may be made for candidates with permanent or temporary disability. These arrangements are intended to allow candidates to perform to the best of their ability. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the Examinations Section when they submit their application of any special circumstances. Applications for special consideration must be supported by written evidence in the form of a medical report from their General Practitioner for medical conditions (an educational psychologist's report is required for requests for extra time because of dyslexia). Details can be found on the College website: www.rcsed.ac.uk

14. EXEMPTIONS

14.1 If a candidate passes in the written component of the examination but fails in the case presentation/structured oral components, the pass in the written component will be carried forward for one diet of the examination only. No other exemption will be permitted. Successful completion of the examination must normally be completed within one year of first presentation at the examination.

15. PROOF OF IDENTITY AT THE EXAMINATION

15.1 Candidates must bring their passports to each part of the examination. Exceptionally, candidates who are not in a position to provide a passport must produce an official document that includes their name, signature and a current photograph e.g. current photographic driving licence.

15.2 For the purpose of visual identification, any candidate sitting any examination may be required to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face. The College will observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates.

15.3 To facilitate the assessment of non-verbal communication skills and interaction with the examiner, the College reserves the right to require candidates to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face.

16. DIPLOMA CERTIFICATE

16.1 A candidate who passes the examination and satisfies the Regulations shall be entitled to the designation of Diplomat in Dental Therapy of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (Dip DT 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 to 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 in Dental Therapy to who has completed the required form of study and passed the necessary examination."

16.2 Successful candidates will be eligible for Affiliation of the College. Affiliates may participate in Faculty educational and social activities. Affiliates shall pay such annual subscription as may be determined from time to time by the College.

17. LEARNING OUTCOMES

17.1 The learning outcomes for this examination are defined in the DCP category as specified by the General Dental Council's publication *Developing the Dental Team – Second Edition (interim) 2009*: (www.gdc-uk.org).

Blueprint Assessment (Dental Therapy)

Blueprint Assessment	Essential	Desirable	Aspirational	Written	Presentation
Clinical Skills Assessment					
Obtain a detailed medical history.	X			X	X
Check and evaluate patient's medical history.	X			X	X
Check consent status.	X				X
Assess smoking and alcohol intake.	X				X
Recognise drug interactions that impact on oral care.	X			X	X
Awareness of relationship between nutrition, general health, drugs and diseases and oral health.	X			X	X
Complete a thorough intra and extra oral examination.	X				X
Assess the disease status of the patient.		X			X
Collate and interpret the information gathered.		X			X
Interpret a treatment plan.	X				X
Relate radiographs to treatment.	X				X
Recognise the need for further investigations and referring back to Dentist.	X				X
Communicate with the patient the treatment to be carried out.		X			X
Understand the interface with other disciplines.		X			X
Understand the current evidence for different types of restorative materials.		X		X	X
Awareness of infection control procedures and Health and Safety issues.	X			X	X
Oral Disease					
Oral medicine. Presentation and management of diseases of oral mucosa, other soft tissues	X			X	

and salivary glands. Systemic diseases. Malignant and pre-malignant lesions					
Plaque related dental disease. Aetiology and pathology of periodontal disease and caries. Microbiology.	X			X	
Periodontal disease. Aetiology and features of acute and chronic periodontal disease. Record and monitor disease. Role in non surgical, post surgical and supportive phase treatment.	X			X	
Dental caries. Detailed knowledge of aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation and epidemiology. Prevention of disease.	X			X	
Oral Pathology and microbiology. Recognition, prevention and management of common oral diseases.	X			X	
Restorative Dentistry					
Management of plaque related diseases, tooth wear and tooth loss.	X			X	
Preventive dentistry	X			X	
Interpret and follow treatment plans.	X				X
Comprehensive dental care.					
Restore primary and permanent dentition. Choice of appropriate materials.	X			X	
Understand the need for moisture control.	X			X	X
Recognise need for further referral.	X				X
Paediatric dentistry					
Interpret and follow treatment plan	X			X	X
Assess needs and preventative needs	X				
Behaviour management skills	X			X	
Restore primary teeth. Choice of suitable materials. SSC	X			X	
Recognises contra-indications and	X			X	

complications of local analgesia					
Recognise contra- indications and complications of extractions.	X			X	
Awareness of special dental needs of patients with disabilities		X		X	X
Recognise developmental dental abnormalities.		X		X	X
Gerodontology					
Physiology of ageing and management of problems associated with care of the elderly.	X	X		X	X
Awareness of oral diseases and disorders in the older patient. Social and psychological factors affecting the elderly.	X			X	X
Significance and treatment of xerostomia, recession and root caries.	X			X	X
Orthodontics					
Recognise and describe malocclusions.	X				X
Understand the role of malocclusion in dental caries and periodontal disease.	X			X	
Preventive care of patients undergoing orthodontic treatment.	X			X	X
Preventive Dentistry					
Conversant with the practice of preventive care including oral health education and oral health promotion.	X			X	X
Understand epidemiological techniques which determine the influence of behavioural, economic and environmental factors on dental health.	X			X	X
Recognising evidence based advice.	X			X	X

Awareness of preventive materials available.	X			X	X
Collaboration with and education of other Health Care Professionals		X		X	X
Dental Public Health					
Understanding behavioural and epidemiological science effects on dental disease.	X			X	
Understanding of the social, cultural and epidemiological factors which may contribute to health and illness.	X				
Understanding of interpretation of epidemiological data.		X			X
Comprehensive Dental Care					
Understand the concept of team working and their role in the dental team.	X			X	
Understand the treatment, and their role in the treatment, of patients with physical or learning disabilities, mental health problems, medically compromised and terminally ill patients.	X			X	
Dental Radiography, Radiology and Imaging					
Understand the referral criteria , taking and processing radiographs	X			X	
Awareness of regulations relating to ionising radiation	X			X	
Principles of quality control and quality assurance.	X			X	
Awareness of dental imaging techniques	X			X	
Pain and Anxiety Control					
Understand various methods of managing and		X		X	

controlling anxiety.					
Competent at local infiltration and inferior dental block analgesia.	X				X
Understanding of pharmacokinetics of local analgesia.	X			X	
Understand the complications and contra-indications that may arise from local analgesia.	X			X	X
Awareness of other techniques, including sedation, used for pain control in dentistry.		X		X	X
Complementary and Alternative Medicine					
Awareness of complementary and alternative therapies available to patients.		X			X
Medical Emergencies					
Understand the principles of First Aid	X			X	X
Competent at carrying out resuscitation techniques	X			X	X
Identify medical emergencies and provide immediate management.	X			X	X
Biomedical Sciences and Oral Biology					
Understanding anatomy and physiology of the whole body. Nutrition and Genetics	X			X	X
Evaluation of scientifically established facts, experimental design and statistics.		X		X	
Knowledge of tooth structure, function of teeth and associated tissues and organs	X			X	
Understand salivary and masticatory activity.	X			X	
Understand the role of micro organisms in plaque formation and dental disease	X			X	
Behavioural Sciences, Communication Skills and Health Informatics					

An appreciation of the cultural and social diversity of the population.		X			X
Understand complaints procedures.		X		X	X
Demonstrate an understanding of the communication skills required to interact with different groups of patients, Health Care Professionals and other members of the dental team.	X			X	X
A knowledge of electronic sources of health information		X			X
Human Disease					
Understand human disease processes.	X			X	X
Understand the principles underlying the maintenance of good health		X		X	X
Elicit, update and record medical history	X				
Appreciation of when to refer on or seek advice.	X				
Understanding of general pathology, medical microbiology, immunology, medicine, surgery, pharmacology and therapeutics.	X			X	X
Law, Ethics and Professionalism					
Understand the legal and ethical obligations of registration with the GDC.	X			X	X
Awareness of principles and practices involved in dental audit.		X			X
Understand ethical responsibilities.	X			X	
Awareness of regulations and legal obligations. Child Protection. Disability Act and Human Rights	X			X	
Understand the importance of full accurate record keeping	X			X	X
Understand consent and confidentiality	X			X	X

Health and Safety and Infection Control					
Awareness of Health and Safety legislation	X			X	X
Understand implementation of infection control measures	X			X	X
Dental Biomaterials Science					
Awareness of properties, manipulation and scientific principles of dental materials	X		X		X
Knowledge of safe handling of materials. Dental amalgam. Composite resin	X			X	X
Awareness of patient safety.	X			X	X

APPENDIX A: GUIDE TO CANDIDATES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document contains the Guidance for Candidates for the Diploma in Dental Therapy of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Further information can be obtained from the Examinations Section:

Examinations Section
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
3 Hill Place
Edinburgh EH8 9DS
Phone +44 0131 527 1600
dental.exams@rcsed.ac.uk
www.rcsed.ac.uk

- 1.2 All parts of the examination are conducted in English.

1.3 The examination for the Diploma in Dental Therapy is designed to test the ability of candidates to treat patients as delegated by a registered dentist. The range of skills which would be tested in the examination would include only those which are specified in the Learning Outcomes for the relevant DCP category published by the General Dental Council. This is obtainable from the General Dental Council, 37 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8DQ (www.gdc-uk.org).

1.4 This Diploma entitles the holder to apply for additional registration with the General Dental Council as a Dental Therapist.

2. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must provide certified evidence of the following:

2.1 Evidence of satisfactory completion of a training programme signed by the Course Director or equivalent.

2.2 **Successful completion of a continuous assessment record** in the form of a clinical log book will have to have been completed during each candidate's training. This should record the clinical work undertaken during the course and should include a series of competency based assessments which the candidate has to complete as he/she progresses through the course. The log book should record the number of patients treated by a candidate together with the types of procedures carried out over the length of the course. It should also record the candidate's performance in each task assessed by his/her clinical tutor. A record of theoretical assessments completed during the course should also be included.

2.2 Evidence of registration with the General Dental Council as a Dental Hygienist.

3. THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

The examination at, or near, the end of training is divided into three components:

3.1 **Written component:** This consists of two written papers, each paper of two hours' duration. Each paper will consist of six short answer questions, **all of which must be answered**. The pass mark for each written paper will be 3, the total pass mark for this component will be 6.

3.2 Case presentations: The examination will consist of two case presentations. Candidates are required to present the records of two case presentations. Candidates are required to present the records of two cases. The case presentations must be submitted on the day of the examination and accompanied by a Candidate and Patient Declaration (Appendix B) for each case. This lasts 30 minutes and this element of the examination will focus on assessing the candidate's knowledge and understanding of procedures carried out for the patients. These presentations must include complete clinical records and radiographs. The cases should represent the breadth of the work of the dental therapist.

These cases should represent the breadth of the work of a dental therapist. The external and internal examiners will ask questions relating to the candidate's clinical knowledge and understanding of the treatment provided.

A declaration form (Appendix C) must be completed for each case presentation and inserted into the patient's folder. **This includes the statement 'I confirm that I have not plagiarised from any source'**. Candidates presenting for this examination will be subject to the relevant plagiarism regulations of the College.

Each examiner will mark independently both case presentations. The total mark available for this section is 16. The pass mark for this component is 12.

3.3 Structured oral: this will be a structured oral of fifteen minutes in which the candidate is questioned over the breadth of the Learning Outcomes.

Each examiner will mark independently for the structured oral examination. The pass mark for this section is 6.

There will be compensation between the case presentations and the structured oral providing a minimum threshold score of 5 is reached in the structured oral examination.

3.4 If a candidate passes in the written component of the examination but fails in the case presentation/structured oral component, the pass in the written component will be carried forward for one diet of the examination only. No other exemption will be permitted. Successful completion of the examination must normally be completed within one year of first presentation at the examination.

4. SCALE OF MARKS AND DESCRIPTORS:

4.1 The following scale of marks is used:

Grade	Description	Detailed description
4	Good	Impressive candidate. Well-informed, fairly critical. Good decision making skills. Justifies approaches well.
3	Pass	Reassuringly sound, rather than impressive. Able to justify only some approaches well, but most appear sensible. Adequate decision making skills.
2	Fail	Examiner is uncomfortable with candidate's adequacy. Not much justification of approaches. Decision making and other skills tested are, on balance, unacceptable.
1	Poor	Questionable approaches, sometimes neither justifiable nor justified. Poor decision making. Potentially risky in practice.

4.2 Normally candidates are required to pass all three components of the examination. However compensation will be permitted for candidates who achieve a 5 in the structured oral component and 13 or more in the case presentation component.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

5.1 The whole examination is normally conducted in the institution where candidate is based.

5.2 Candidates should note that no practical work will be required during the examinations.

5.3 Any candidate failing the examination may request confidential advice concerning any additional training which may be beneficial before attempting the examination again. It is normally the institution where the candidate is based that will give feedback.

APPENDIX B: CONSENT FORM

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Diploma in Dental Therapy (Dip DT RCSEd)
Candidate and Patient Declarations

A signed declaration must be submitted for each case presentation.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh handles all candidate and patient information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

To be signed by the candidate:

I confirm that I personally carried out the treatment for this patient.

Case Number:

Patient's Initials:

Candidate Name:

Candidate Signature: Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

To be signed by the patient:

I understand that my dental treatment has been documented with clinical photographs for use in the Diploma in Dental Therapy Examination. The material will be scrutinised by examiners undertaking the examination but this information will never be in the public domain.

Patient Name:

Patient Signature: Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

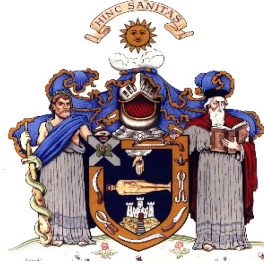
Postal Address:

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APPENDIX C: DECLARATION FORM

This form should be completed and placed in an envelope with all the other forms for the cases. The envelope should then be forwarded to the Examinations Section.



ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH DIPLOMA IN DENTAL THERAPY PRESENTATION OF CASE HISTORIES

Date of examination:

Candidate's name:

Patient's initials:

Patient's date of birth:

I certify that the treatment for the named patient was carried out by the Candidate

Supervisor's name:

Supervisor's signature:

Date:

Departmental stamp:

I confirm that I have not plagiarised from any source.

Candidate's name:

Candidate's signature:

Date: