

Regulations for the Intercollegiate Diploma in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (DO-HNS) of Great Britain and Ireland

Updated August 2009

Revised with effect from June 2011

The Diploma in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, was established as an intercollegiate examination with effect from the diet commencing in April 2008.

Part 1 of the Diploma is a multiple-choice written examination (MCQ) which will be held simultaneously at all venues. Candidates may apply to any College to sit Part 1.

Part 2 of the Diploma is an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). All colleges will be accepting applications for each diet, although the OSCE examination will be held on a rotational basis at different college locations on each diet. Candidates should apply for the Part 2 at the college from which they wish to be awarded the Diploma

Purpose

The purpose of the Intercollegiate Diploma in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery is to test the breadth of knowledge, the clinical and communication skills and the professional attributes considered appropriate by the Colleges for a doctor intending to undertake practice within an Otolaryngology department in a trainee position. It is also intended to provide a test for those who wish to practise within another medical specialty, but who have an interest in the aspects of where that specialty interacts with the field of otolaryngology. In particular, it will be relevant for General Practitioners wishing to offer a service in minor ENT surgery.

1. The Examination

The Intercollegiate DO-HNS examination comprises:

1.1 Part 1 - MCQ Paper

1.1.1 This comprises Multiple True/False Questions and Extended Matching Questions in one paper to be completed in two hours.

1.1.2 The papers sat at each of the colleges at any particular sitting are identical and are held almost simultaneously.

1.2 Part 2 - OSCE

1.2.1 Candidates must have been awarded a pass in Part 1 before sitting Part 2.

1.2.2 The Part 2 OSCE normally comprises approximately 25 bays including several clinical bays where candidates will be required to examine actors.

1.2.3 Each OSCE bay is normally of seven minutes' duration.

1.2.4 To facilitate the assessment of non-verbal communication skills and interaction with the examiner and patient (or actor in the role of the patient as the case may be), the Colleges reserve the right to require candidates for the OSCE component to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face.

1.3 All parts of the examination will be conducted in English.

2. Administration

2.1 The MCQ paper is held up to three times a year. The examinations are held simultaneously at all centres.

2.2 The OSCE is held at one host centre up to three times a year in the UK. The host centre will rotate between The Royal College of Surgeons of England, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland will hold the examination up to three times per year. (Please refer to the web sites of the four surgical Royal Colleges for calendar details).

2.3 The host centre will send out the OSCE programme to all candidates sitting in that diet.

2.4 The results will be issued by the College to which the candidate applied.

3. Entry to the Examination - Eligibility

3.1 To be eligible to obtain the Intercollegiate DO-HNS, all candidates must:

3.1.1 hold a primary medical qualification that is acceptable to the United Kingdom General Medical Council for **Full or Provisional Registration** or to the Medical Council in

Ireland for **Full or Temporary Registration**; overseas candidates must hold a primary medical qualification acceptable to the Councils of the four Colleges; (prospective candidates who wish to check the acceptability of their medical degree should check the list of medical schools on http://avicenna.ku.dk/database/who_directory/ If the medical school does not appear on this list, candidates should contact the examinations department/section at the College to which they wish to apply for the examination);

3.1.2 have complied with the regulations;

3.1.3 have paid the examination fee; and,

3.1.4 have passed Part 1 and Part 2 of the Intercollegiate DO-HNS examination.

3.2 **First time applicants whose names do not appear on the Registers of the UK General Medical Council or Medical Council in Ireland** must submit their original certificate (or an authenticated copy) of a primary medical qualification acceptable to the Councils of the four Colleges (see note under paragraph 3.1 above on checking eligibility of primary medical qualifications). Candidates who have previously entered Parts 1 and/or 2 with one College and then apply to a different College will also have to supply full details as set out here to the new College.

4. Recommendations and Advice

4.1 It is strongly recommended that before they apply for Part 1 of the Intercollegiate DO-HNS examination candidates should have been engaged in acquiring professional knowledge and training in Otolaryngology for at least 6 months in a full-time or equivalent part-time position after acquiring their basic medical qualification.

4.2 It is strongly recommended that candidates seek the advice of their Assigned Educational Supervisor or Programme Director or equivalent, before deciding when to take any part of the examination.

5. Admission to the Examination

5.1 **Candidates should consult individual College websites or contact the examinations department/section of the relevant College for details of dates and venues for examinations.** Details of the examinations department/section of each of the four Colleges are to be found at the end of these regulations.

- 5.2 **Candidates can enter any part of the examination through any College, but may only enter with one College at each sitting.** Any candidate who has entered an examination with more than one of the four Colleges at the same sitting will forfeit the fee for each additional application.
- 5.3 Candidates who have passed Part 1 of the Collegiate DO-HNS examination administered by the Royal College of Surgeons of England prior to April 2008 may enter Part 2 of the intercollegiate DO-HNS examination and may do so with any College.
- 5.4 Application for entry to any part of the examination must:
- 5.4.1 be made on the appropriate (paper or electronic version) application form;
 - 5.4.2 be accompanied by the examination fee which must be received in full by the relevant College before a candidate is entered for the examination;
 - 5.4.3 reach the examinations department/section of the appropriate College by the date specified in the examinations calendar. Applications received after the closing date will be returned.
- 5.5 If, exceptionally, a candidate is permitted to enter the examination without first having paid the specified examination fee and fails thereafter to pay the fee, the candidate shall not be permitted to take any further Part with any Surgical Royal College without payment of the outstanding fee or, if the unpaid fee relates to such a candidate's Final part of the examination, the relevant College reserves the right not to mark or assess that Part of the examination.

6. Proof of Identity

- 6.1 Candidates must bring proof of identity to each examination. Proof of identity must be an official document, such as a current passport or driving licence that includes their name, signature and a photograph.
- 6.2 For the purposes 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 Colleges will observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates.

7. Withdrawal from the Examination

- 7.1 A candidate who withdraws, in writing, an application for admission to any part of the examination may be refunded the fee paid (less an administrative fee of 20%) provided that notice of an intention to withdraw is received by the examinations department/section before the closing date by which applications are due, as shown in the examinations calendar. Refunds are not normally made to candidates who withdraw after the closing date.
- 7.2 Applications for consideration of a refund on medical grounds must be accompanied by a medical certificate. Applications for consideration of a refund on compassionate grounds must be supported by the consultant or surgical tutor responsible for training. All such applications must be submitted to the examinations department/section of the appropriate College within 14 days of the commencement of the examination.
- 7.3 The Colleges reserve the right, regardless of eligibility to take the examination, to review applications on an individual basis in exceptional circumstances. For information on pregnancy and deferral see paragraph 14.
- 7.4 Candidates with special needs should advise the appropriate College at the time of application of the nature of their needs and any assistance that they require. Requests must be supported by medical evidence (an educational psychologist's report is required for requests for extra time because of dyslexia). If appropriate, details of extra time or other allowances made by other examining bodies should be given, although the Colleges are not bound to follow these.

8. Results

- 8.1 Results will be posted on the website and sent out in the post by the examinations department/section of the College through which the candidate entered.
- 8.2 The Diploma will be issued by the College at which the candidate successfully completes the Part 2 examination.

9. Feedback

For Part 2 of the examination all candidates will receive feedback on their performance. No further feedback is available.

10. Appeals Mechanism

Any candidate who wishes to make an appeal about the conduct of his/her examination must address it to the examinations

department/section of the College to which they applied within 30 days of the publication of results. Appeals will be considered which allege maladministration or bias or impropriety of some kind, whether in the conduct or in the determination of the result of the examination. Appeals disputing the academic judgement of the examiners will not be allowed. Details of the appeals process and any fees charged may be obtained from the appropriate College.

11. Infringement of the Regulations

The Colleges may refuse to admit to, or to proceed with, the examination of any candidate who infringes any of the regulations, or is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

12. Improper Conduct by Examination Candidates

12.1 In the case of improper conduct of an examination candidate as defined below, the four Colleges acting jointly may impose a penalty relating to the candidate's eligibility for the relevant or future examinations. Improper conduct is defined as:

12.1.1 Dishonestly obtaining or attempting to obtain entry to the examination by making false claims about eligibility for the examination or falsifying any aspects of the entry documentation.

12.1.2 Obtaining or seeking to obtain unfair advantage during an examination, or inciting other candidates to do the same. Examples of unfair advantage are: having on the person any material that would give advantage in an examination once the examination has commenced (this includes electronic communication devices), communicating or attempting to communicate with another candidate once the examination has commenced, refusing to follow the instructions given by examiners or examinations staff concerning the conduct of and procedure for the examination. This list is not exhaustive.

12.1.3 Removing or attempting to remove from the examination any confidential material relating to the conduct of the examination.

12.1.4 Obtaining or attempting to obtain confidential information concerning the examination from an examiner or examination official.

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

The list given above is not exhaustive.

12.2 If a candidate is found to have acted improperly his/her name may be reported to his/her national authority; the Colleges may decide that a candidate should not be allowed to proceed further with the examination.

13. Notification of Pregnancy and Deferral

13.1 A deferral may be permitted to any candidate supplying an appropriate medical report which satisfies the relevant College indicating that:

13.1.1 The candidate has any pregnancy-related problems or illness; and/or

13.1.2 The candidate's confinement is due shortly before or around the date of the examination; and/or

13.1.3 The candidate has sufficient discomfort for her to consider that it will have a detrimental affect on her performance.

13.2 In such circumstances, a deferral will be permitted and no further fee will be required.

13.3 Any candidate who does not inform the College of her pregnancy and is consequently unable to sit for that examination will not normally be allowed to defer this examination without submission of another fee.

NOTE: These Regulations are under continual review. It is recommended that candidates keep in regular contact with their College to ensure that they have the most up-to-date information. Any changes will be announced on the College websites and www.intercollegiatemrcs.org.uk.

College Details

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

The Adamson Centre
Hill Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9DS
Tel no: 0131-527-1600
Fax no: 0131-668-9231
E-mail address: examinations@rcsed.ac.uk

The Royal College of Surgeons of England

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3PE
Ph: 0207 869 6281
Fax: 0207 869 6290
E-mail: exams@rcseng.ac.uk
Web: www.rcseng.ac.uk

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

232-242 Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5RJ
Ph: 0141 221 6072
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E-mail: dohns@rcpsg.ac.uk
Web: www.rcpsg.ac.uk

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

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