

**DIPLOMA IN IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH
(DiplIMC RCSEd)**

REGULATIONS FROM DECEMBER 2013

INTRODUCTION

The examination for the Diploma in Immediate Medical Care is designed to test the knowledge, skills and behaviours of pre-hospital emergency care practitioners.

The level of performance expected is that commensurate with level 5 on in the Skills for Health Career Framework for Health (www.skillsforhealth.org.uk). Level 5 practitioners have a comprehensive, specialised, factual and theoretical knowledge within day-to-day pre-hospital emergency care clinical practice and an awareness of the boundaries of that knowledge.

There is a focus within this examination on timely recognition, diagnosis and management of conditions and situations in the pre-hospital environment rather than on the use of facilities for investigation and treatment that may be available predominantly within a hospital. This examination includes pre-hospital emergency care for all patient age groups from neonates to the very elderly.

BLUEPRINTING

This examination is blueprinting against the phase 1 elements of the UK Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine (PHEM) curriculum (available currently at www.ibtphem.org.uk). Potential candidates are strongly advised to read and consider the content of the curriculum thoroughly before applying for the examination.

1. FORMAT OF EXAMINATION

The examination will consist of two parts (A and B) as follows:

1.1 Part A - Two written papers:

1.1.1 a multiple choice question paper (MCQ) of 150 minutes duration consisting of both Single Best Answer (SBA) questions and extended matching item (EMI) questions;

1.1.2 a written paper of 30 minutes duration containing projected material and related multiple choice format questions.

1.2 Part B – An Objective Structured Practical Examination (OSPE)

1.2.1 The OSPE will normally consist of 14 OSPE testing stations. Twelve of the OSPE stations will each be of 8 minutes duration and two will be of 16 minutes duration. There may, in addition, be one or more rest stations or preparation stations and one station that is being pre-tested. The pre-testing station will not contribute towards the final mark of the examination. Candidates will not be informed which station is being pre-tested.

1.3 The content of the examination will be based on current United Kingdom medical practice. International candidates must adapt their answers or clinical problem solving to UK clinical practice, guidelines and consensus statements.

1.4 In order to gain a pass in the examination overall, candidates must achieve a pass in both Parts A and B at the same sitting.

1.5 To facilitate the assessment of non-verbal communication skills and interaction with the examiner and patient (or actor in the role of the patient), 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.

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

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Candidates must fulfil one of the following requirements:

2.1.1 **Medical Practitioners** must have been engaged in the practice of their profession for not less than two years after full registration with the UK General Medical Council. Candidates must show documented evidence, countersigned by a FPHC Regional Examinations Advisor or, for trainees in a UK approved PHEM Training Programme, the Training Programme Director, of sufficient clinical experience (*at the time of application*) in the area of pre-hospital emergency care. Sufficient clinical experience may range from intensive training or experience over a relatively short time frame or accumulated infrequent experience over several years.

2.1.2 **Nurses** must hold registration with the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council and have been engaged in the practice of their profession for not less than two years. They must show documented evidence, countersigned by a FPHC Regional Examinations Advisor, of sufficient clinical experience (*at the time of application*) in the area of pre-hospital emergency care. Sufficient clinical experience may range from intensive training or experience over a relatively short time frame or accumulated infrequent experience over several years.

2.1.3 **Paramedics** must show evidence of registration with the UK Health and Care Professions Council and have been engaged in the practice of their profession for not less than two years. They must show documented evidence, countersigned by a FPHC Regional Examinations Advisor, of sufficient clinical experience (*at the time of application*) in the area of pre-hospital emergency care. Sufficient clinical experience may range from intensive training or experience over a relatively short time frame or accumulated infrequent experience over several years.

2.2 Candidates, who do not fulfil any of the above entry requirements, may apply for special consideration. This applies for all candidates from outside the UK. Their curriculum vitae and the extent of their pre-hospital experience should be submitted in full to the Examination Section RCSEd for consideration by the Convener for Examinations in Immediate Medical Care RCSEd. The Convener may decide to refer the application for full discussion to the Pre-hospital Care Examinations Board of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh for a final decision regarding eligibility.

3. ATTEMPTS

3.1 Candidates are permitted four attempts in which to pass the examination.

3.2 Failure to pass the examination within the permitted number of attempts will debar the candidate from applying again under these regulations.

3.3 The number of attempts for completion of the DipIMC RCSEd cannot be increased.

4. APPLYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

4.1 The examination for the Diploma in Immediate Medical Care will usually be held twice a year. The dates of the examination and the venue and fees payable, are set out in the online examination calendar, which can be found on the College website: <http://www.rcsed.ac.uk>.

4.2 Applications must be made by post. Any application must be accompanied by certificates showing the date and place of obtaining the primary qualification, registration and particulars of subsequent experience. The application must be signed and dated by a FPHC Regional Examinations Advisor or UK approved PHEM Training Programme Director. The name on the primary certificate will normally be the name by which the candidates are registered.

4.3 Candidates must submit their application to sit the examination no later than the closing date indicated in the examinations calendar. Postal applications and all documentation should be forwarded to:

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Examination Section
Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9DW
SCOTLAND

5. PROOF OF IDENTITY

- 5.1 Candidates must bring their passport 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.
- 5.2 For the purposes of visual identification, any candidate sitting any part of the 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.

6. DRESS CODE

- 6.1 The dress code is smart / casual.
- 6.1.1 Appropriate attire for the OSPE component would be comfortable clothing suitable for simulating patient care in indoor environments. T-shirts or jeans are not acceptable dress.
- 6.1.2 Clothing which demonstrates the candidate's profession or professional position (e.g. paramedic, nurse, or doctor) should not be worn.
- 6.1.3 Clothing which names particular hospitals or pre-hospital care or ambulance services should not be worn.
- 6.1.4 Flight suits or ambulance service uniforms should not be worn.

7. RESULTS

Results will be placed on the College website and sent out in the post.

8. FEEDBACK

- 8.1 Candidates will be notified of the minimum mark required to pass each part of the examination together with their achieved mark for both parts of the examination.
- 8.2 Unsuccessful candidates can request, in writing, more detailed feedback. The Examinations Section of the RCSEd will provide appropriate information to the FPHC Regional Examinations Advisor or PHEM Training Programme Director named on the application form. The FPHC Regional Examinations Advisor will then provide detailed feedback based on the information given.

9. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EXAMINATION

- 9.1 Candidates who wish 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 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 candidates who withdraw after the closing date.
- 9.2 Candidates who wish 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 14 days following the date of the candidate's programmed examination date.

9.3 Examination candidacy during pregnancy – **see Annex A.**

10. CANDIDATES WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

10.1 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.

10.2 An application for special consideration must be supported by written evidence in the form of a medical report from a General Practitioner or appropriate specialist for medical conditions (an educational psychologist's report is required for requests for extra time due to dyslexia).

11. EXPULSION OR EXCLUSION FROM THE EXAMINATION

11.1 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 infringement are as follows:

11.1.1 Entry to the examination being attempted by making false claims about eligibility or falsifying entry documentation. The College reserves the right to make checks to validate any information or documents supplied by the candidate;

11.1.2 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;

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

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

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

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

12. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

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

Examination Section
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9DW
SCOTLAND

Email: IMC.exams@rcsed.ac.uk

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 Examination Section will be able to advise you:

Tel: +44 (0) 131 527 1600

Email: IMC.exams@rcsed.ac.uk

ANNEX A

NOTIFICATION OF PREGNANCY AND DEFFERAL

Deferral of examination due to pregnancy-related complications

A deferral may be permitted to candidates supplying an appropriate medical report, which satisfies the College indicating:

- (i) the candidate has any pregnancy related problems or illness and/or;
- (ii) the candidate's confinement is due shortly before or around the date of the examination and/or;
- (iii) the candidate has sufficient discomfort for her to consider that it will have a detrimental effect on her performance.

In such circumstances, should any such candidate be unable to sit for the examination, a deferral will be permitted and no further fee will be required.

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