



Guidance notes

Application for the Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) through the Combined Programme (CP) route

Introduction

These guidance notes are for trainees intending to apply for the award of a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) through the Combined Programme (CP) route in the following specialties:

- chemical pathology (including chemical pathology [metabolic medicine])
- diagnostic neuropathology
- forensic histopathology
- histopathology (and related subspecialty of cytopathology)
- medical microbiology
- medical virology
- paediatric and perinatal pathology

Trainees wishing to apply for a CESR through the CP route in haematology, immunology and joint trainees in medical microbiology, virology and infectious diseases should contact:

Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB)

Website: www.jrcptb.org.uk

Legal requirements in the UK

It is a legal requirement that a doctor must have his or her name entered on the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council (GMC) before taking up a substantive, honorary or fixed-term NHS consultant post in the UK.

For trainees who satisfactorily complete specialist training in the UK, entry to the Specialist Register will be dependent upon either the award of a Certificate of Completion Training (CCT) or a CESR through the CP route, which will be awarded by the General Medical Council (GMC) upon recommendation from the relevant College.

The CESR (CP) route is for trainees who have been appointed to a GMC-approved deanery and have:

- **trained in both non-approved and approved training posts, and**
- **trained on a UK training programme for less than the [minimum number of years required under EU legislation for your specialty](#).**

This applies to you if you have either trained in non-approved post(s), or you entered an approved training programme above ST1/usual entry point, and you then completed the rest of the programme, and demonstrated the curricula competencies.

Further information about the CESR (CP) process is available on the [GMC website](#):



Please note doctors on a combined programme who have completed the [minimum amount of time training in the UK](#), or who are training in specialties for which there is no minimum training time, will be eligible for the award of a CCT. Please see how to [apply for a CCT on the College website](#).

Criteria for the award of the CESR through the CP route

The criteria upon which The Royal College of Pathologists will recommend to GMC that a CESR may be awarded to a trainee via the CP route are:

- evidence that the trainee has registered with the Royal College of Pathologists including ratification of time that has been spent in posts not approved by GMC
- evidence of appointment to a GMC-approved UK training programme
- attainment of the Fellowship of The Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath) by examination
- ARCP (Annual Review of Competency Progression) outcome 6

Applying for the award of the CESR through the CP route

The Training Department will write to all trainees who have passed FRCPath Part 2 and are within 6 months of their CESR (CP) date with details about how to apply for entry to the Specialist Register. Alternatively, trainees who meet the criteria for the award of CESR (CP) can contact the Training Co-ordinator at the College for application details.

There are two stages to the CESR (CP) route application process:

1. Completion of a Royal College of Pathologists notification form which, along with guidance notes, can be downloaded from the [College website](#) at any time. Alternatively, the notification form can be requested from the Training Co-ordinator at the College.
2. The College will also inform the GMC that you are nearing your completion date. The GMC will then contact you directly on how to complete their online CESR (CP) application.

Until you receive your Certificate of Completion of Training and are listed on the Specialist Register, you may undertake locum consultant posts but not substantive consultant posts.

CESR (CP) application timescales

The GMC have a timeframe within which a doctor can apply for a CESR (CP). This limit is 12 months from the doctors expected end-of-training date. Doctors will continue to have the ability for entry to the specialist or GP register but they would need to do so via the equivalence routes of CESR or CEGPR and provide the necessary documentation to confirm their current competence.

How to complete the College notification form

Trainees should accurately complete the form in full and:

- provide accurate information in the grey boxes on the College notification form, as this will be copied directly on to your CESR (CP).
- obtain the signature of the Postgraduate Dean (or Associate Dean) to confirm completion of training (and subspecialty training if relevant).

What to send to The Royal College of Pathologists

Trainees must send electronically to the Training Department at the College (see page 4 for contact details):

- the completed notification form
- a copy of the ARCP outcome 6
- an updated CV.

Trainees who have had training prospectively approved towards their CESR (CP) by GMC must enclose a copy of all relevant documentation with their CESR (CP) application to the College.

Trainees applying for subspecialty recognition on the Specialist Register must **also** provide the following evidence:

Applying for inclusion of a subspecialty against a CESR (CP) entry on the Specialist Registrar

For chemical pathology: metabolic medicine is a recognised subspecialty. Trainees wishing to apply for inclusion of metabolic medicine against a chemical pathology entry on the Specialist Register should indicate this on their notification form.

For histopathology: cytopathology is a recognised subspecialty. Trainees wishing to apply for inclusion of cytopathology against a histopathology entry on the Specialist Register should indicate this on their notification form.

Trainees must provide the following minimum evidence if they require inclusion of a recognised subspecialty against an entry on the Specialist Register:

- appraisal form or supervisor's report providing evidence of successful progressive structured training
- a certificate or other verifiable evidence of completion of a structured training programme in the subspecialty applied for (ARCP outcome 6)
- evidence that sub-speciality training was undertaken at Higher Specialist Training level; such evidence might include the award of an NTN number or the overseas details of the training post/programme appointment. Where subspecialty training has taken place Out of Programme (either in the UK or overseas), this must be accompanied by evidence of prospective GMC approval.

How will the College complete the CESR (CP) process

On receipt of a completed College notification form and documentation at the College, the Training Co-ordinator will normally:

- check that the trainee meets the criteria for the award of the CESR (CP), that all relevant documentation has been provided and that all requirements of the relevant curriculum have been satisfactorily completed
- check that there is a full set of ARCP forms in the trainee's file that covers the full specialist training period. Where gaps in ARCP periods are identified, these will be checked with the relevant deanery and/or trainee. If gaps are identified between ARCPs, this will not affect the recommendation of the award of the CESR (CP) by the College but will be reported to GMC.
- ask a representative of the relevant College Specialty Training Committee (CSTC) to check the CESR (CP) application
- prepare and send a recommendation for the award of the CESR (CP) to GMC within 15 working days
- acknowledge receipt of the CESR (CP) College notification form by informing the trainee when the recommendation has been made to GMC. Trainees are advised to contact the Training Co-ordinator (details below) if they do not receive acknowledgement of their application from the College within 15 working days.

NB Incomplete or late applications may result in the award of the CESR (CP) being delayed. The processing of CESR (CP) applications from trainees who have not previously registered with the College may also be subject to delay.

Further queries about the award of the CESR (CP)

Any queries concerning the CESR (CP) process should be directed to:

Louis Nyerere, Training Co-ordinator

Tel: 020 7451 6748

Email: training@rcpath.org