

Updated transitional arrangements for Dual CCT Programmes in Medical Microbiology/ Medical Virology with Infectious Diseases/Tropical Medicine

1. Introduction

These transitional arrangements are for trainees appointed to dual CCT programmes in Medical Microbiology (MM)/Medical Virology (MV) with Infectious Diseases (ID) or Tropical Medicine (TM) and replace those previously published by the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) and Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB). These transitional arrangements were jointly developed and are endorsed by both the RCPath and JRCPTB. They were approved by the General Medical Council (GMC) on 4 March 2016, following a four-week consultation with relevant stakeholders from all specialties concerned, including all dual trainees.

General principles

These updated transitional arrangements for dual trainees

- meet the requirements of the General Medical Council (GMC) for curriculum transition, as outlined in the position statement [Moving to the current curriculum \(November 2012\)](#). In the case of the introduction of new curricula such as these, a two year transition period is allowable and these transitional arrangements reflect that guidance. Therefore, no trainee may remain on previous curricula beyond 31 December 2017.
- clarify the position for dual trainees following on from the original transitional arrangements.
- ensure the maintenance of the educational quality, standards, and integrity in the transition from the existing GMC approved curricula and ensure that dual trainees cannot complete ID training without an ID knowledge test.
- aim to ensure fairness and equity for all trainees.
- ensure that curriculum competences and mapping is undertaken by the LETBs/deaneries.
- minimise disruption to trainees' progress to CCT (recognising that significant change in curricula and examinations is complicated and there may be complex individual circumstances).

For the avoidance of doubt, 'FRCPATH Part 1' refers to the current MM&MV FRCPATH Part 1 examination. 'FRCPATH Part 1/CICE' refers to the new examination that also includes ID.

2. Completion of training and award of dual CCT

Trainees will normally complete their training and be awarded a CCT in both specialties under one of the following combinations of curricula.

Option 1 2010 ID or TM curriculum and revised 2010 MM or MV curricula. The examination requirements in order to achieve CCT in both specialties are: MM&MV Year 1 OSPE, FRCPATH (Part 1 and Part 2 in either MM or MV), ID Specialty Certificate Examination (SCE). Training must be completed by 31 December 2017.

Option 1	Revised 2010 MM/MV curriculum	2010 ID/TM curriculum
	MM&MV Year 1 OSPE Current FRCPATH Part 1 (MM&MV) FRCPATH Part 2 (MM or MV)	ID SCE

Option 2 2014 ID or TM and MM or MV curricula, incorporating the Combined Infection Training (CIT) curriculum. The examination requirements in order to achieve a CCT are: the FRCPATH Part 1 and Combined Infection Certificate Examination (CICE) and FRCPATH Part 2 in either MM or MV.

Option 2	2014 MM/MV curriculum	2014 ID/TM curriculum
	FRCPATH Part 1/CICE	
	FRCPATH Part 2 (MM or MV)	

Option 3

Trainees who have already passed FRCPATH Part 1 may wish to remain on the 2010 ID/TM curricula and attempt the ID SCE while it is still available although they will not complete training by 31 December 2017. Trainees eligible for this option can delay curricula transfer until they have passed the ID SCE in either 2016 or 2017. The final date by which trainees under this option must transfer is 31 December 2017. Such trainees will also need to complete the FRCPATH Part 2 in MM or MV but can attempt and pass this under either their current curriculum, or the one that they move to. This additional flexibility is being provided in order to facilitate transition through changing curricula and assessment systems.

Trainees who pass the ID SCE and then transfer to the relevant new curriculum will not be required to also pass the FRCPATH Part 1/CICE examination since they will already have passed equivalent examinations in the form of the current FRCPATH Part 1 and the ID SCE. Trainees under this option must transfer curriculum no later than 31 December 2017 if they have not already achieved their CCT. Trainees who do not pass the ID SCE during this time must transfer to the relevant curriculum and pass the FRCPATH Part 1/CICE examination.

It is recognised that these are very complex transitional arrangements. A simpler summary of the arrangements is available in section 5, although it is advisable to read the whole document. Please note that the RCPATH and JRCPTB will guide trainees, through the TPDs, as to which option is best for them and will provide support through the transition process.

3. Changes to curricula and assessment systems

Because the ID SCE examination is not an element of the assessment system in the 2014 ID/TM curricula, the JRCPTB announced on 4 June 2015 that the final sitting of the ID SCE will be September 2017. After September 2017, the only ID knowledge test available to trainees will be the FRCPATH Part 1/CICE.

The FRCPATH Part 1/CICE will be available from autumn 2016.

4. Implications for trainees

The implications will be different for trainees at different stages of their training. Individual trainees should consider carefully and discuss with their educational supervisor which is the most appropriate option for their circumstances and desired career pathway.

- a. Trainees in MM/MV&ID/TM are able to complete their training and achieve a CCT in both specialties on their current curricula and are *not affected* by these transitional arrangements, provided they **complete the Year 1 OSPE, FRCPATH, and ID SCE examinations as well as all other curricula and assessment requirements in time to achieve a CCT by 31 December 2016**.
- b. **Trainees who have passed or have the opportunity to pass the ID SCE, but will not complete training by 31 December 2016**, will be able to complete the requirements for an ID CCT on the 2010 ID or TM curriculum provided they are **able to achieve a pass in the ID SCE by 31 December 2017**. Such trainees in dual CCT programmes will be expected to transfer to the revised 2010 medical microbiology or medical virology curriculum in order to complete the medical microbiology or medical virology requirements of their dual training.

- c. **Trainees who began their training in 2014 must transfer to the 2014 ID or TM and MM or MV curricula. Such trainees should pass the new FRCPPath Part 1/CICE and the FRCPPath Part 2 in MM or MV** as part of the requirements to achieve CCT in MM/MV and ID/TM. These trainees should ensure that they have received exemption from the MM&MV Year 1 OSPE. They will not be required to attempt or pass the ID SCE examination.
- d. **Trainees who began their training before 2014 but who have not passed any summative examinations** (e.g. the current FRCPPath Part 1, FRCPPath Part 2 and/or the ID SCE) must transfer to the 2014 ID/TM and MM or MV curricula including the new FRCPPath Part 1/CICE and the FRCPPath Part 2 in MM or MV, in order to complete the medical microbiology or medical virology requirements of their dual training. These trainees should ensure that they have received exemption from the MM&MV Year 1 OSPE if they have not already passed it. They will not be required to attempt or pass the ID SCE examination.
- e. **Trainees who have passed either the current FRCPPath Part 1, or both FRCPPath Part 1 and FRCPPath Part 2 but have not passed the ID SCE can complete their ID or TM training by remaining on their current curricula until such time as they pass the ID SCE and then transfer to the relevant most recent curricula. This process must be completed by 31 December 2017.** In circumstances where trainees do not pass the ID SCE by December 2017, they must transfer to the relevant most recent curricula and pass the FRCPPath Part 1/CICE as well as the FRCPPath Part 2 in order to be eligible for a CCT in their dual training.
- f. In circumstances where a **trainee has passed the ID SCE by December 2015 but their CCT date is after 31 December 2017**, they must transfer to the revised MM&MV 2010 curricula and the 2014 ID curriculum. The combination of passes in the current FRCPPath Part 1 in MM&V and the ID SCE will be accepted in place of the new FRCPPath Part 1/CICE.

Other issues/guidance

Trainees who meet the requirements of the 2010 MM or MV curricula but who do not have the ID SCE and do not wish to attempt the FRCPPath Part 1/CICE (or have not completed any other part of the ID or TM curriculum) can, with the permission of their Postgraduate Dean, give up their ID/TM training and apply for a CCT in the single specialty of MM or MV. Please see advice regarding giving up a specialty on the [GMC website](#).

Trainees who have already passed the current FRCPPath Part 1 (plus or minus the FRCPPath Part 2) and who do not pass the ID SCE by December 2017 will:

- be allowed to attempt the FRCPPath Part 1/CICE without it affecting their Associateship or Fellowship status with the Royal College of Pathologists.
- not have any previous attempts at the FRCPPath Part 1 or ID SCE examinations counted towards their attempt at the CICE. The permitted number of attempts allowed will therefore be in line with published RCPPath Examination Regulations and Guidelines.
- have to pay the normal fee for each attempt at the FRCPPath Part 1/CICE.

Trainees holding the current FRCPPath Part 1 but who have not yet passed FRCPPath Part 2 and who wish to attempt the FRCPPath Part 1/CICE to complete ID training should normally pass the FRCPPath Part 1/CICE prior to attempting FRCPPath Part 2.

Trainees will not be permitted to attempt the FRCPPath Part 1/CICE and the FRCPPath Part 2 in the same examination session.

5. Practical arrangements for these transitional arrangements

The RCPATH and JRCPTB will take an overview of the transition of all dual trainees to ensure that the general principles outlined above are followed and advise the relevant Training Programme Directors (TPDs). Trainees will be contacted with further advice according to the following groups. Trainees should also read the updated transitional arrangements carefully. Their TPD should discuss their way forward with them in the first instance and approach the relevant College to deal with any complex questions if necessary.

- a. Trainees in their final year of dual CCT training, due to complete training in both specialties by 31 December 2016 will not need to transfer curricula as long as they complete all requirements for the award of the CCT by 31 December 2016.
- b. Trainees in dual CCT programmes who have already passed the ID SCE or will pass it by 31 December 2017 and will complete training between 31 December 2016 and 31 December 2017 can remain on the 2010 ID or TM curriculum but will be required to transfer to the revised 2010 MM/MV curriculum.
- c. Trainees who began their training in 2014 will be required to transfer to the 2014 MM/MV and ID/TM curricula.
- d. Trainees in dual CCT programmes who have not passed any examinations (apart from the MM&MV Year 1 OSPE) will be required to transfer to the 2014 MM/MV and ID/TM curricula.
- e. Trainees who have passed either the current FRCPATH Part 1 or the current FRCPATH Part 1 and FRCPATH Part 2 but not passed the ID SCE can remain on their current curricula until such time as they pass the ID SCE and then transfer to the relevant most recent curricula. This process must be complete by 31 December 2017.
- f. Trainees with a pass in the ID SCE but with a CCT date after 31 December 2017 will be required to transfer to the revised MM&MV 2010 curricula and the 2014 ID curriculum. The combination of passes in the current FRCPATH Part 1 in MM&V and the ID SCE will be accepted in place of the new FRCPATH Part 1/CICE.

Trainees should contact Jenny Maddocks (jenny.maddocks@rcpath.org) at the Royal College of Pathologists regarding any queries about their MM/MV training and Zoë Fleet (curriculum@jrcptb.org.uk) at the JRCPTB about their ID or TM training. It is strongly recommended that both Colleges are copied into any correspondence.