Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Vascular Surgery

Regulations
2015
1. The applicant must hold a medical qualification recognised for registration by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom or the Medical Council of Ireland. The applicant must have been qualified for at least six years.

2. The applicant must provide evidence of having reached the standard of clinical competence defined in the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum either for the award of the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) by the General Medical Council Postgraduate Board or for the award of Certificate of Specialist Doctor (CSD) by the Irish Surgical Postgraduate Training Committee (ISPTC). The required standard may have been achieved through training or qualifications, and experience considered together. The passing of the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination alone does not imply that the CCT, CSD (Ireland) or placement on the Specialist Register will be automatic; the Examination will form only part of the evidence required.

3. This evidence must consist of three structured references in the format prescribed by the Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations (JCIE). These references must be completed by the appropriate senior colleagues with direct experience of the applicant’s current clinical practice in the appropriate specialty as defined in the Guidance Notes for Referees.

4. Candidates will have up to a maximum of 7 years to complete the examination process as follows:

   **Section 1:** Candidates will have a two year period from their 1st attempt with a maximum of 4 attempts with no re-entry.

   Candidates who have achieved the required standard in Section 1 and have been granted eligibility to proceed to Section 2 the following will apply:

   **Section 2:** Candidates will have a maximum of 4 attempts with no re-entry.

All previous Regulations will be rescinded.
**Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Vascular Surgery**

**Guide to the Scope and Format of the Examination**
Applicable to Irish surgical trainees and for UK trainees appointed to a Vascular Surgery NTN post after 1 Jan 2013.

**Section 1** will be a written test* composed of a combination of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ single best answer; 1 from 5) and Extended Matching Item questions (EMI). Each paper will be carefully prepared to cover the curriculum content which can be best assessed in this way. A process of standard setting will then be performed by trained and experienced examiners and this will set the pass mark for the paper.

Candidates must meet the required standard in Section 1 in order to gain eligibility to proceed to Section 2.

- **Paper 1**
  - Single Best Answer [SBA] (2 hours)
- **Paper 2**
  - Extended Matching Items [EMI] (2 hours 30 mins)


**Section 2** is the clinical component of the examination. It will consist of a series of carefully designed and structured interviews on clinical topics – some being scenario based and some being patient based.

The format will consist of clinical and oral examinations in all aspects of Vascular Surgery. This will include the relevant aspects of anatomy, physiology and pathology.

Section 2 of the examination comprises:

**Clinical**
- Long Cases (x1 40 minute clinical during which 2 patients will be seen)
- Short Cases (x1 40 minute clinical during which 4 patients will be seen)

**Oral**
4 x 30 minute oral examinations as follows:
1. Case-Based Discussion - Aneurysm & Lower Limb - 2 cases will be covered
2. Case-Based Discussion - Endovascular & Miscellaneous - 2 cases will be covered
3. Emergency Vascular Surgery Oral comprising:
   - Trauma - 2 themes will be covered
   - Peri-operative management / critical care - 4 themes will be covered
4. Elective Vascular Surgery Oral comprising:
   - Basic Principles and Interventional Radiology - 4 themes will be covered
   - Academic Foundation* - covering understanding & methodology analysis, critical appraisal & interpretation

(*Academic Foundation: candidates may be tested on any one of the key published Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) and important vascular papers as determined by the SAC in Vascular Surgery. The list of top RCTs and important vascular papers is available via the Vascular Surgery Curriculum [https://www.iscp.ac.uk/](https://www.iscp.ac.uk/))

For further indication of the Examination Scope, candidates should consult the Curriculum as published by the SAC in Vascular Surgery [www.iscp.ac.uk](http://www.iscp.ac.uk).

Please note that the Intercollegiate Board in Vascular Surgery reserves the right to modify the format of the examination.
The Slaney Medal gifted by the
The Vascular Society for Great Britain and Ireland

The above medal will be awarded annually, by the Board, to a candidate who achieves the highest score in the Section 2 examination at the first attempt. All awards are made at the discretion of the Board.

A candidate who is an existing Member of one of the four participating Royal Colleges (Edinburgh, England, Glasgow, Ireland) and who is successful in the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination will be promoted to the Fellowship of their college, unless they indicate another preference. Only those who are subsequently accorded and maintain the Fellowship of a College are entitled to use that College’s associated post-nominals.

June 2015