

The Royal College of Surgeons of England



DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY

Regulations

Faculty of Dental Surgery

The Royal College of Surgeons of England | Registered charity no. 212808

Updated December 2016

REGULATIONS FOR THE DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY (DSCD, RCS Eng)

1.0 Overview

The Diploma in Special Care Dentistry (DSCD) is a self-directed, distance learning programme assessed via written assignments, clinical portfolio and examination. The diploma is suitable for specialty trainees and dentists who wish to develop the clinical skills required to treat patients with a range of complex needs. It has two parts, Part A and Part B.

2.0 Eligibility

Part A

Applicants must:

1. Demonstrate that they are working in the field of Special Care Dentistry
2. Possess a primary dental qualification that is acceptable to the Council of The Royal College of Surgeons of England
3. Have complied with all the regulations, and have signed, in the presence of an officer of the College, a declaration of compliance with the ordinances of the College.

Part B

Applicants must:

1. Have successfully completed Part A of the DSCD. **Please note that the College will consider equivalence for Part A where a candidate has completed another Certificate, Diploma or Masters in Special Care Dentistry**
2. Satisfactory completion of supervised experience in the field of special care dentistry:
 - This must be a minimum period of two years full-time or equivalent part-time Special Care Dentistry experience over a maximum period of five years.
 - The experience must have been gained within five years prior to sitting Part B of the exam.
 - Evidence will be accepted from current or previous employers, or from the relevant tutor supervising the education.
3. Examinations Department two copies of:
 - Proof of two years continuing professional development (CPD), including Special Care Dentistry related CPD.
 - Log Diary – record of patients seen within a six-month period who fall into the category of special care dentistry. The minimum number acceptable within the log diary is 75 patients

3.0 Format of the Examination

Part A

Part A of the DSCD examinations is a self-directed learning programme from a set syllabus divided into 7 modules (see syllabus for more details). One assignment must be completed from each of the 7 modules and it is advised that they are submitted in numerical order (Note exemptions form Module 1).

Each assignment must achieve a pass mark before the next assignment is submitted.

Every assignment involves a topic report which answers specific questions and should be 2000 - 2,500 words. Each module will offer a choice of 2 questions – this allows the candidate 4 attempts to pass each module.

All assignments must be submitted within a five year time period starting from when candidates register for Part A.

Part B

Part B of the DSCD examination covers all seven modules of Part A. It is composed of the following components:

1. A Multiple Short Answer (MSA) and Clinical Scenarios question paper of two hours duration
2. An Oral Examination of 30 minutes duration on the Log Diary and two submitted case presentations
3. Four structured clinical reasoning stations (SCRs) of 80 minutes duration.
 - Each SCR will be examined by an examiner who will ask each candidate the same questions and will mark according to agreed guidelines setting out what is and is not an acceptable answer.
 - Candidates will have 10 minutes preparation time followed by 10 minutes questioning for each SCR.
 - Of the four SCRs:
 - ⇒ Two will assess clinical decision making (referred to as the unseen cases)
 - ⇒ Two will assess clinical governance (referred to as the problem solving cases)
4. If a candidate is unsuccessful in one or more components of Part B, they will be given the opportunity to re-sit the components they did not pass at the next diet of the Part B examination.
5. Candidates have 3 attempts in total to pass all components of Part B

4.0. Exemptions

Exemptions from Module 1 Part A

- 4.1 Holders of Part I MCCD
- 4.2 Holders of Part A old style MFDS or Part 1 old style MFGDP (UK).
- 4.3 Holders of Part 1 of new MFDS offered by The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh or the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow.
- 4.4 Holders of MJDF Part 1.
- 4.5 Holders of Primary FDS.
- 4.6 Holders of Part 1 MFD of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
- 4.7 Those who have received exemption from Part 1 Diploma in GDP.
- 4.8 Those who have completed Part 1 of the MGDS examination.

Exemptions from all seven Modules of Part A

The College will consider equivalence for Part A where a candidate has completed another Certificate, Diploma or Masters in Special Care Dentistry. If successful, the candidate will be eligible to sit Part B directly

5.0 Syllabus

Module 1	<i>Oral Sciences of Relevance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anatomy relevant to practice• Pharmacology and Therapeutics• Patho-physiology• Microbiology
Module 2	<i>Knowledge & Understanding of Conditions leading to Impairment & Disabilities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medically compromising conditions• Learning disabilities• Mental Health problems including emotional disabilities & Phobia• Physical disability• Sensory Impairment• Disability & impairment in the older person
Module 3	<i>Behavioural Sciences & Sociology of Health, Impairment & Disability</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behaviour & Anxiety• Theory of Health Promotion• Medical & Social Models of Health & Disability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to health care • Inequalities in health • The prevention of oral disease within the Community
Module 4	<p><i>Law, Ethics and Health & Safety</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent • Risk Management • Infection control in dentistry • Management of medical emergencies • Restraint and manual handling
Module 5	<p><i>Provision of Comprehensive Oral Care</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis and holistic oral care planning • The prevention of oral disease in the individual • The impact of disability on treatment techniques and patient management in a range of settings • Behaviour management e.g. hypnosis, sedation, psychological management and general anaesthesia etc.
Module 6	<p><i>Developing Services in a Community Setting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service provision for socially excluded and disadvantaged people • Identification of Special Care Groups • Oral assessment • Prevention & Health Promotion • Service evaluation
Module 7	<p><i>Clinical Effectiveness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance • Clinical Audit • Evidence-based practice • Research Methodology • Epidemiology

6.0 General Regulations

6.1 Infringement of the Regulations

The Colleges may refuse to admit to examination or to proceed with the examination of 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.

6.2 Representation and Appeals

Candidates who desire to make representations with regard to the conduct of their examination must address them to the Examinations Officer of the College within three months of the examination and not in any circumstances to an examiner. Representations will then be dealt with according to the policy agreed by the College.

6.3 Application of Admittance

Applications for any part of the examination must reach the Examinations Department by the closing date specified in the examinations calendar. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed.

Applications for admission to any section of the examination must be fully completed, accompanied by the required certificates and the full amount of the fee payable for the examination.

6.4 Withdrawal

Candidates withdrawing from an examination before the closing date must do so in writing. The entrance fee will be returned less a 20% administrative charge.

Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date or who fail to attend the examination for which he/she has been accepted will not normally be entitled to any refund of fee. No transfer of an examination fee will be permitted.

A refund on medical or compassionate grounds, even if there is a medical certificate, is not normally allowed.



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1. The candidate, having passed all parts of the examination for the Diploma in Special Care Dentistry shall be given a notice subscribing his/her name to the Bye-Law and the required declaration. It rests with the Board of Faculty to confer upon them the Diploma of Special Care Dentistry and that until the granting of such a Diploma by the Board, they are not in any circumstances, entitled to make use of the letters DSCDRCS Eng. after their name; to exercise any other rights conferred by the membership; or be admitted as visitors to the examination.
2. The candidate, having passed all parts of the examination for the Diploma in Special Care Dentistry will be required to pay a £230 completion fee upon which his/her name will be forwarded to the Board of Faculty.
2. Upon confirmation by the Board of Faculty the successful candidate shall then receive a Diploma bearing the Seal of the College and the Diploma shall state that such Diplomate has been successful in the examination.

(DSCD December 2016)

NEXT REVISION DATE DUE 2019