



Forthcoming Expiry of the MRCPsych Part I Pass

The use of a pass in the former MRCPsych Part I examination to exempt candidates from Papers 1 and 2 of the current MRCPsych examination is due to expire in July 2010. The College anticipated that this change would cause anxiety for trainees who had recently passed the former Part I. We have consequently been careful both in considering just how long it would be appropriate to recognise this pass as an exemption from the new Papers 1 and 2 and in our dissemination since March 2007 that a Part I pass would remain a valid exemption until 31st July 2010. Any candidate with a pass at Part I who has not completed the MRCPsych by 31st July 2010 will then be required to sit and pass Papers 1 and 2 and hold a valid pass at Paper 3 in order to be eligible to sit the CASC examination. The aim of our decision to allow applicants to carry over a Part I pass until July 2010 was to allow a reasonable period of extended training for those candidates who needed it and to allow up to five opportunities for these candidates to take Paper 3 and the CASC.

The regulation was the result of careful consideration by several committees within the College and was designed to allow as much flexibility for trainees as was considered reasonable. Some restriction to the time length of the exemption was considered necessary for two principal reasons. First, the new MRCPsych examination has a different syllabus and curriculum, is in a different format and uses different and more standardised testing methods than its predecessor. It thus has only limited overlap with the components of the old MRCPsych examination. Second, and more importantly to the College, practicing doctors must have knowledge which is up-to-date and their understanding of psychiatry must remain in keeping with current practice. Our patients, their families and the public must be confident that a pass at MRCPsych reliably indicates that a trainee has mastered the current knowledge and competencies required of a psychiatrist and that he or she is ready to advance from core training.

Professor, Rob Howard, **Dean**

Professor Anthony Bateman, **Chief Examiner**

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