



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - MRCPsych Part I Validity

In recent weeks the College has received representations from candidates who, under transitional arrangements announced in March 2007, could use a pass in the former MRCPsych Part I examination for exemption from Papers 1 and 2 of the current MRCPsych examination. This exemption is due to expire on 31 July 2010 and affected Part I holders have appealed to the College that the decision be reconsidered.

At the meeting of the Education Training and Standards Committee (ETSC) on 21 July 2010 careful consideration was given to these representations and the issue was the subject of detailed discussion.

The decision announced in March 2007 for the transitional arrangements was not formally revoked. However, in an effort to reach a final decision which is fair to individual candidates but also reasonable taking account of other important factors, such as the College's obligation to uphold and maintain training standards, it was decided that an internal College committee shall be asked to conduct further investigations taking into consideration any new information that may have emerged since the transitional arrangements were announced in 2007. This committee will report to the ETSC who will consider the issue again with the benefit of those findings and make a decision. The ETSC's decision will be made on 20 October 2010 and announced by the end of October 2010.

During this interim period pending a decision of the ETSC in October 2010, affected Part I holders will be permitted to apply to sit the MRCPsych CASC in September 2010 and/or the MRCPsych Paper 3 in October 2010, as may be relevant to the individual candidate.

Part I holders who sit Paper 3 in October 2010 will have to await the final decision to be made by the ETSC on 20 October 2010 before learning whether or not they will be able to take the CASC without first passing Papers 1 and 2.

Those Part I holders who take and pass the CASC in September 2010 will be eligible for Membership of the College under these exceptional arrangements during the interim period. Those individuals who take and fail the CASC in September 2010 will have to await the decision to be made by the ETSC on 20 October 2010 before learning whether or not they will be able to re-take the CASC without first passing Papers 1 and 2 in addition to holding a valid Paper 3.

Such applications are subject to the MRCPsych Exam Regulations which remain applicable in all other respects. The relevant application periods can be found on the College website.

The College is aware that, pending a final decision of the ETSC in October 2010 there may be candidates who wish to undertake MRCPsych Papers 1 and/or 2 in August 2010. These candidates do so of their own volition and the College accepts no responsibility for a candidate's decision to take this course, nor a decision to the contrary. If applications have been submitted for Papers 1 and/or 2 and applicants no longer wish to sit these papers they must contact the Examinations Department by no later than Friday, 30 July 2010 to withdraw their application by E-mail to: examinations@rcpsych.ac.uk

It is the responsibility of candidates to keep abreast of developments as to training and examinations through the College website. The College will use its best endeavours to send a copy of this statement to affected Part I holders whose identity and contact details are known to the College. However, the College does not have a complete list of affected Part I holders and accordingly it is not in a position to ensure that each affected candidate will receive personal notification. Further, the College does not accept responsibility for misdirected or delayed communications due to incorrect or out of date addresses of candidates.

Professor Robert Howard, Dean

Friday 23rd July 2010