

The Irish Fellowship Examination and a CCT

Following review of the new curriculum for 2010 PMETB has advised the College that the Fellowship Examinations of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland would no longer be acceptable as tests of knowledge for a CCT in Anaesthetics in the UK from August 2010.

Trainees in possession of the Irish Fellowship examinations appointed to programmes from August 2010 will be eligible entry to the Specialist Register through the CESR (CP) route. What appears as a change in policy by PMETB is in fact the regulator enforcing their legal obligations as defined in the PMETB Order.

This change affects those trainees who will be appointed to a programme using the new curriculum from August this year - not those trainees who are already in a programme using the 2007 curriculum who will get a CCT when they successfully complete the programme.

Since being made aware of the PMETB position on the Irish examinations, the College has been working through the issues, particularly the impact on UK trainees and the maintenance of the relationship with the Irish College.

The College is very keen to see that no trainee is disadvantaged by the changes and is in discussions with PMETB to try and agree appropriate transitional arrangements and a long term solution. This will include discussing the issue with the Chair of the Joint Committee for Surgical Training and the Chair of PMETB to allow the Irish Colleges time to demonstrate that their examinations are to the standard required by PMETB.

We will consider further action on completion of these discussions. The RCoA has had a long and fruitful relationship with our colleagues in the Irish College, a relationship we wish to continue.