



APEL for Dental Specialty Training –

The process for recognising transferable competences following appointment to a Dental Speciality training programme

Background

Greater flexibility within a given training programme is a consistent and strong theme year on year from trainees and medical educators. Trainees wish to strike a balance between their working and personal lives and to facilitate this are more commonly choosing to work less than full time, take time out of the training programme or change specialty. The DST Flexible Training and Personal Development Opportunities paper provided guidance to facilitate flexibility in training.

The use of Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) is recognised by educational institutions as a means of crediting learning that may or may not previously been assessed. It normally involves recognition of a range of experiences in the same field of study that may be unstructured and unconsciously gained.

Guidance and Process

1. Any Dental Specialty Trainee wishing to have APEL recognised and request a change in CCST date would benefit from specialty careers advice as well as a discussion with the Training Programme Director in their chosen specialty. This discussion will identify any gaps prior to application as well as discuss how previous training aligns to the specialty curricula and what they should expect from the training programme.
2. Once training has commenced the trainee should meet (within the first month) with the Educational Supervisor/Training Programme Director to review the competencies already achieved and to understand from the trainee where they believe they are in terms of curricular objectives mapped to the relevant specialty curriculum. These competencies may include one or more areas of clinical/specialty specific, generic, and research.
3. Evidence collected by the trainee prior to commencing training will be required to be presented to inform the discussion and decision. Evidence should include up-to-date CV, and evidence of previous training and experience with any relevant assessments (e-Portfolio).
4. A gap analysis should be undertaken to work out the specific requirements of the individual. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges have produced a generic gap analysis form to assist with this.



5. This analysis and discussion will determine the most appropriate grade of training and can allow the development of a tailored programme covering the first period of training enabling the trainee to cover competences usually expected later in training. At this point a provisional CCST date can be set. This date for each specialty cannot be less than that set out in the European Primary and Specialist Dental Qualifications Regulations 1998 (as amended) and the GDC (Specialist List) Regulations 2008.
6. The trainee, ES and TPD should agree this is in the trainee's educational interest to recognise the competencies acquired in a previous role and this recommendation should be supported by the Training Programme Director.
7. The grade of training and provisional CCST date will then be formally reviewed and ratified at the first 6-month ARCP Review. Specialty Advisory Committee representation should sit on the ARCP panel considering this request. Where relevant the panel should include an academic representative.
8. The CCST date will then be subject to routine review at each subsequent ARCP.
9. Following the 6-month ARCP no further amendments can be made to the CCST date based on competence acquired through prior experiential learning.
10. At the ARCP making the decision to change the CCST date, the ARCP form should be updated and a narrative text added to support the decision.

Other key documents also published include:

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Guidance for flexibility in postgraduate training and changing specialties (including gap analysis).



Acceleration of Training (prior competency) - Notification form

Please complete this form with your Educational Supervisor and forward on to your TPD at least 2 months prior to your first 6 month ARCP review.

Name:					
GDC No:					
Email Address:					
Current Level of Training:					
Please record the amount of time you want to accelerate by:		Current CCST date :		Revised CCST date :	
Record the reason why the training programme should be accelerated and the Training reviewed with ES with brief summary of discussion:					
Trainee Signature:		Date:			
ES Name:		Date:			
Signature:					
Programme TPD Name Programme TPD emailed:		Date:			

**Please note that programme end dates cannot be officially changed except at ARCP. The ARCP panel will review your e-portfolio and the evidence presented to fast track. If the panel agrees with the evidence, they will recommend to the Postgraduate Dental Dean that your programme end date is changed.*

Trainees Only

By signing this form I confirm I have discussed the implications of fast tracking with my ES/TPD and understand that, if approved and training progresses appropriately, my training will finish early.