



Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board

Prospective approval of overseas training towards the award of a CCT

Introduction

1. This guidance is for Colleges, Faculties and Post Graduate Deaneries and describes the arrangements for counting approved overseas training towards the award of a CCT.

Background

2. The legislation establishing PMETB makes it clear that PMETB may approve training outside the UK towards the award of a CCT. To count towards a CCT training must be part of an approved CCT specialty training programme, be supervised, and have prospective PMETB approval. There are existing examples of this where planned specialty training rotations include approved posts in Eire, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Also posts further afield may be included in formal training programmes eg. sub-specialty training which is not available in the UK, or periods of training for armed services trainees in field hospitals overseas which form part of deanery planned CCT training programmes.

3. What the legislation does not permit is retrospective approval of overseas training for the award of a CCT. A current example would be where a doctor has undertaken 2 or 3 years training overseas, is then appointed to a CCT programme and applies to have the retrospective recognition of their overseas training and hence bring forward their CCT completion date. The legislation no longer permits this. If this happened in the future then such doctors may be eligible for specialist registration at the end of their training through the Article 14 route but could not be awarded a CCT because they have not completed a full UK specialty training programme in PMETB approved posts and programmes.

4. Clearly this policy differs from the arrangements currently in place. Therefore, transitional arrangements are needed. The table attached shows the categories of doctors involved, the current system adopted by PMETB in September 2005 and the arrangements from January 2007 onwards.

Transitional arrangements

5. PMETB has agreed that

i. **CCT dates for those already appointed to CCT specialist programmes prior to January 2007 where retrospective approval for overseas training has already been granted should be honoured.** To require such trainees to undertake further training or apply under the Article 14 system would not be fair or acceptable to those involved.

ii. **All retrospective recognition towards completion of CCT programmes should stop from 1 January 2007 onwards.** There will be many doctors applying for SpR training programmes with overseas training at basic, and some at higher specialist training level, who have the required entry criteria. Some may have been granted approval for these posts by the relevant College or Faculty but if they have not been appointed to a Specialist Registrar programme by 1 January 2007 then these posts cannot be credited towards CCT award. Some of the trainees appointed prior to this date may not actually take up their first post in an approved programme until some date before run-through specialty training starts in August 2007. Providing they have been appointed by 1 January 2007 then College/Faculty approval for relevant overseas training posts will be credited towards CCT award providing any approval process is completed before the start of run-through training on 1 August 2007.

As part of the MMC implementation arrangements, appointments to SpR programmes are due to end in January 2007 with appointments to run through CCT specialty training programmes from the foundation years starting in August 2007. Therefore, from January 2007 onwards, all overseas training which is to be part of a rotational programme and count towards the award of a CCT will require prospective approval from 1 January 2007 onwards for all trainees appointed to specialty training after this date.

Arrangements from 1st January 2007 onwards

6. From this date retrospective approval of overseas training will not be possible for doctors appointed to the new run-through specialty CCT programmes. Doctors eligible for the award of a CCT will be those who have successfully completed the full UK approved training programme and who were:

i. appointed to SpR training programmes prior to 1 January 2007 and who had already obtained retrospective approval for overseas posts prior to their appointment or who had subsequently applied for retrospective approval and the process had been completed and estimated CCT date amended prior to 1 August 2007; or

ii. appointed to an approved run through training programme at ST1. This programme could include overseas posts already included as part of the training rotation or it may include overseas posts which have been prospectively approved following a trainees' appointment to ST1; or

iii. appointed above ST1 level providing the previous posts being counted or evidence of the competencies achieved was in approved UK SHO, FTFA or LAT posts.

7. For the award of a CCT it will not be possible to:

i. count time or evidence of competencies achieved in overseas training posts (without prospective approval) or career grade posts (including trust doctor posts) in the UK or overseas; or

ii. grant prospective approval to an individuals' training post overseas prior to them being appointed to a UK specialist training programme.

Award of a CCT

8. So that PMETB can decide whether to award a CCT it will require evidence of successful completion of the entire specialist training programme when it undertakes its usual checks on an application. PMETB will require evidence of the date of appointment to the CCT programme. Where retrospective approval has been granted for doctors appointed to SpR programmes prior to 1 January 2007 PMETB will require evidence of these posts to be satisfied that they were equivalent to UK CCT training requirements. Trainees who have undertaken prospectively approved overseas training as part of their CCT programme will need to be able to provide the necessary evidence demonstrating progression in their training such as trainers' reports, assessments etc. the same as for those in UK training.

PMETB's post/programme approval process

9. The process of post, programme and trainer approval already in place at PMETB requires a dean to submit details of the training post or programme on a specially designed form that reflects to a certain extent the Board's training standards. It also requires the deanery to have obtained the comments of the relevant royal college. PMETB is sending out consistent and strong messages to deaneries and colleges that they must work together locally to select and quality control programmes.

10. The Board will prospectively approve, towards a CCT, training outside the UK in the following circumstances:

- On receipt of a formal application for approval from a deanery for inclusion in a CCT training programme
- Inclusion of the post in a training programme which has the explicit support of the relevant royal college representative(s). Local college representatives must act according to the national policy of their respective royal college and should seek advice from the college where necessary to ensure consistency of standards across the UK.
- The application describes the process the deanery used to select the post/programme
- The dean confirms that the training meets PMETB standards
- The dean confirms that the post is subject to similar deanery-managed quality control processes as UK posts
- If the quality control processes are different, the deanery provides a description with the application
- For training in another EEA Member State, the Dean confirms that the post is approved for training in that specialty by that Member State confirmed by a statement/certificate from the relevant European member states' competent authority.

11. Where prospective overseas approval is granted the relevant College or Faculty needs confirmation of this for each trainee so that they can check that the trainee has complied with the requirements of the CCT programme, gather the required documentation, and at the appropriate time make a recommendation to PMETB regarding CCT award.