

General Dental Council consultation: Quality Assurance Standards for Specialty Education

Faculty of Dental Surgery response

Standard 1 - Protecting patients

How would you respond to the following statement: Standard 1 and the underlying requirements are clear.

Agree

Is there anything missing from Standard 1?

Yes

Requirement 5 - include under evidence: satisfactory appraisal of trainer; appropriate CPD relevant to education and training role eg 'training the trainers'

Requirement 7 - include under evidence: serious incidents; never events; root cause analysis

Are there any requirements that you feel should not be there?

No

Please state whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The indicative evidence is helpful in understanding what the GDC expects to be provided to meet the standards.

Agree

Are there any challenges in meeting:

The standards and requirements

No

The evidence

Yes

Requirement 2 - Evidence: ensuring written consent for all clinical examinations and treatments may prove too burdensome

Standard 2 - Quality evaluation and review of the programme

How would you respond to the following statement: Standard 2 and the underlying requirements are clear.

Agree

Is there anything missing from Standard 2?

Yes

Role and responsibilities and lines of accountability for staff involved in delivering training programme

Are there any requirements that you feel should not be there?

No

Please state whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The indicative evidence is helpful in understanding what the GDC expects to be provided to meet the standards.

Agree

Are there any challenges in meeting:

The standards and requirements

Yes

Requirement 10 - The SACs or other bodies of the Royal Surgical Colleges should also have a role in quality evaluation and review.

The evidence

Yes

We are keen to see the SACs play a key role in monitoring the quality of training and look forward to responding to the GDC's future consultation to consider the quality assurance process for Specialty Education.

Standard 3 - Assessment

How would you respond to the following statement: Standard 3 and the underlying requirements are clear

Neither

Clearer definition of 'assessment' required, e.g. formative/summative including methods. Clearer explanation of 'fit for purpose' required.

Requirement 13 - Requires a clearer explanation of who is conducting the assessment process, e.g. Deanery/HEE; University; Royal College of Surgeons

Is there anything missing from Standard 3?

Yes

There appears to be an assumption that all trainees are on Deanery/HEE NTN training programmes. While mediated entry to specialist lists is still available the document should state that the GDC will consider entry by other routes and that applicants will be expected to have undertaken training that fulfils these standards.

Are there any requirements that you feel should not be there?

No

Please state whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The indicative evidence is helpful in understanding what the GDC expects to be provided to meet the standards

Agree

The established role of the Royal College of Surgeons providing robust external summative assessment and demonstrating attainment of learning outcomes relevant to individual specialty curricula should be made clearer.

Are there any challenges in meeting:

The standards and requirements

Yes

Appropriate training of examiners/assessors both internal and external

The evidence

No

Standard 4 - Equality and diversity

How would you respond to the following statement: Standard 4 and the underlying requirements are clear

Agree

Is there anything missing from Standard 4?

Yes

Trainee disability/impairment - may require special measures for assessment process, e.g. extra examination time for Dyslexia.

Welfare of Trainees and Trainers does not appear to be covered.

Are there any requirements you feel should not be there?

No

Please state whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The indicative evidence is helpful in understanding what the GDC expects to be provided to meet the standards

Agree

We are consulting on Standards for Education and considering whether it would be more appropriate to integrate Requirements relating to Equality and Diversity throughout the other

Standards instead of having a separate Standards relating to Equality and Diversity. This would ensure that Equality and Diversity are fully embedded throughout.

Do you agree, if adopted, this approach should also apply to Standards for Specialty Education?

Yes

All Standards - General Questions

Are there any standards or requirements that you consider do not apply to your programme/award?

Yes

The diagnostic specialties (Oral and MF Pathology, Oral Microbiology and DMF Radiology) may have difficulty meeting the requirement to assess every curricular element because of their broader curricula and lack of simply tested outcomes, as none of these specialties have outcomes comparable to patient treatment items or outcomes.

Please use this space to provide any further feedback on the Standards for Specialty Education

The Faculty of Dental Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons England would have welcomed this document to begin with a clear statement about existing standards and how they are validated. We feel that the Royal College specialty assessments are an essential part of this process. Many Universities run specialty training programmes for dental specialties however, the fact that candidates must demonstrate their knowledge and skill in a RCS national examination sets a very important standard as part of the process for entry to the GDC's specialist lists.

We consider that a document aiming to set standards for specialty education should include a clear statement recognising the importance of the RCS specialty assessment process and how the GDC sees this as part of producing, maintaining, defining and improving standards of specialty education.

Regulatory impact

Following the GDC implementing the standards, please describe the impact you would expect to see on the following areas:

Quality of patient care and patient safety during and after training

Positive

Education and training provider operating costs and resources

Increase

Quality Assurance process will require adequate resources.

It is not clear at present whether or not the GDC will deploy other agencies such as the Royal College of Surgeons through the role of the SACs.

Assurance about specialty trainees' competence in their specialist role on completion of the programme

Positive

Specialty trainee experience during training and their clarity about the standard to be reached

Positive

Equality and diversity

Are there any issues arising from the standards, requirements and evidence relating to equality and diversity which need to be addressed?

Yes

As highlighted in Standard 4, it is important to take into account any disability/impairment of trainees that may affect the training and assessment process.