

Practical Implications of the Interim MoU between the GDC and Members of the JCSTD

The GDC has now published the Interim Memorandum of Understanding between the General Dental Council (GDC) and the Members of the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (JCSTD). This document replaces The Accord published in May 1996 and sets out the roles and responsibilities of the main bodies in postgraduate dental education for the immediate future. The MoU is available on the GDC web site www.gdc-uk.org

The new MoU will change the processes in postgraduate dental education and some of the practical implications are outlined below. (Quotes from the MoU are in italics.)

Approval of Programmes

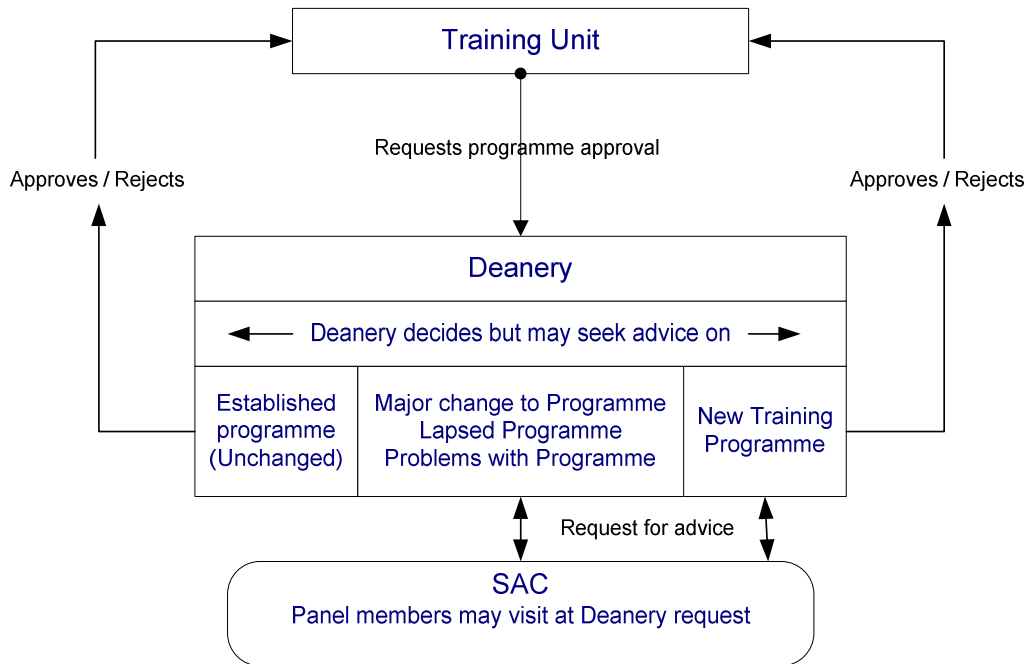
The MoU says *“Deans (Postgraduate Dental Deans, PGDDs) will have responsibility for the quality management of specialist training programmes according to GDC requirements and with external input”*. Deaneries will be responsible for training programmes and from June 2008 SACs will no longer do approval visits unless invited to visit by a deanery. New training programmes will be approved by the PGDDs. SACs will be advisory. PGDDs will normally seek SAC advice on new programmes and where they feel specialty advice would be helpful.

The request to set up a new training programme should be submitted in the first instance to the deanery. The deanery will usually communicate with the SAC when advice is needed. The decision whether or not to proceed with a programme will rest with the deanery, not the SAC. Deaneries and Training Programme Directors will quality manage the application process. Whatever quality assurance process is introduced by the SDEB, PGDDs will need to demonstrate that they have quality management processes in place; these would include evidence that external advice had been sought when needed.

Following adverse feedback from trainees/trainers or other external sources, a Deanery may decide that a visit/virtual visit would be helpful, it may then invite the SAC to provide one or two visitors. Visits by the Royal College of Radiologists to Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology training schemes will also be advisory and carried out at the invitation of the deanery.

Paperwork for programme approval will form part of the quality management processes in the deanery. COPDEND and the JCSTD through SACs will collectively develop paperwork for deaneries to report on the creation of new programmes as well as the appointment and management of trainees so that consistent records can be kept.

The process is summarised on the flow chart below.



CCST

Postgraduate Dental Deans will “*have responsibility for recommendation of the award of CCSTs to the GDC*”. The normal length of full-time training will be defined by the curriculum, so PGDDs will normally set CCST dates for trainees. Deans will usually seek advice from the relevant SAC when an SpR requests a reduction in training time on the basis of previous learning/experience. SACs will ensure consistency within their specialty and the JCSTD/SACs will develop mechanisms to ensure equity between specialties. Applicants requesting a shortened training programme should have been appointed to their SpR training programme and apply early in their training for consideration of their request. Deaneries may also seek advice on other training programme changes such as maternity leave and CCST date revisions

Externality

Deaneries will quality manage training programmes and trainees; however, from time to time they will need to seek external advice. In Scotland, externality is currently provided through the Dental Faculties of the Royal Colleges in Scotland. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland externality will normally be provided by the deanery selecting an external link person from a list provided by the SAC. The advisor will usually be one of the current SAC members but could be a former member of the SAC or other suitably qualified person. The mechanisms by which deaneries select their external advisor

and how they in turn link back to the SAC are still to be decided. These advisors will be available to help the deanery with RITAs/ARCPs, trainees in difficulty, and the development of new programmes. Advisors will liaise and report back to the relevant SAC to ensure that they are providing consistent advice.

Annual Survey of Trainees

Arrangements will be sought to develop a national survey of trainees and trainers. SACs, in conjunction with COPDEND, will collate and analyse the information obtained.

Information Exchange Between Deaneries and SACs

SACs will “keep a national register of trainees, including self-financed trainees and sponsored trainees. The register will include information on the trainees’ start and anticipated completion dates and progress through training.”

Deaneries will provide information on the creation of new programmes and send a brief annual summary to the SACs following the annual review of career progress (RITA/ARCP). SACs will provide feedback to deaneries based on triangulated feedback from trainees and trainers and the outcomes of training.

Quality Assurance

The Specialist Dental Education Board of the GDC will develop a quality assurance system for specialist postgraduate dental education.

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