

The Royal College of Surgeons of England



DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY

Regulations

Faculty of Dental Surgery

The Royal College of Surgeons of England | Registered charity no. 212808

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REGULATIONS FOR THE DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY (DSCD RCS Eng)

1.0 Overview

The Diploma in Special Care Dentistry (DSCD) is a self-directed, distance-learning programme assessed in two parts. Part A is a written examination consisting of Single Best Answers (SBAs) and Part B is a structured oral examination.

The exam is assessed at the expected standard of a practitioner who has a minimum of two years of experience working in the field of special care dentistry.

The diploma is suitable for dentists and specialty trainees who wish to develop and demonstrate their applied knowledge of the skills required to treat patients with a range of complex needs.

These regulations should be read in conjunction with the Diploma in Special Care Dentistry Guidance to Candidates.

2.0 Eligibility

Applicants must:

1. Possess a primary dental qualification that is acceptable to the Council of The Royal College of Surgeons of England
2. Have complied with all the regulations, and have signed, in the presence of an officer of the College, a declaration of compliance with the ordinances of the College.

3.0 Format of the Examination

At their first attempt, all candidates must sit Part A and B in the same sitting and successfully pass **both** parts to be awarded the Diploma in Special care Dentistry.

The two parts of the examination will take place on consecutive days and held once a year, usually in April.

Candidates who fail either Part A, Part B or both, will only be required to re-sit the component(s) they failed. Candidates re-sitting a component will be required to re-sit the component in its entirety. Candidates will have a maximum of three attempts to successfully complete both Parts A and B. Candidates who have not successfully completed both components within three attempts will not usually be permitted to continue with the Diploma.

Part A:

Part A consists of a written paper of 140 single best answer (SBA) questions mapped to the 7 modules of the curriculum:

1. Oral Sciences of Relevance
2. Knowledge & Understanding of Conditions leading to Impairment & Disabilities
3. Behavioural Sciences & Sociology of Health, Impairment & Disability
4. Law, Ethics and Health & Safety
5. Provision of Comprehensive Oral Care
6. Developing Services in a Community Setting
7. Clinical Effectiveness

Part B:

The aim of this part of the examination is to assess the candidates' clinical reasoning skills, application of their knowledge of special care dentistry and their ability to communicate effectively.

This part of the examination is conducted as a structured oral examination.

There will be seven stations consisting of:

- 2 problem solving structured clinical reasoning (SCR) stations
- 2 clinical governance SCRs
- 2 unseen cases SCRs using an actor to assess both applied knowledge, clinical reasoning and communication skills
- 1 communication station using an actor to assess communication skills

Each station will have 10 minutes preparation time and 10 minutes structured examination time with exception of the communication station which will be 10 minutes in total, including preparation time.

4.0. Exemptions

Exemptions from Part A

The College will consider equivalence for Part A where a candidate has completed another Certificate, Diploma or Masters in Special Care Dentistry. If successful, the candidate will be eligible to sit Part B directly.

5.0 Syllabus

Module 1	<i>Oral Sciences of Relevance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anatomy relevant to practice• Pharmacology and Therapeutics• Patho-physiology• Microbiology
Module 2	<i>Knowledge & Understanding of Conditions leading to Impairment & Disabilities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medically compromising conditions• Learning disabilities• Mental Health problems including emotional disabilities & Phobia• Physical disability• Sensory Impairment• Disability & impairment in the older person
Module 3	<i>Behavioural Sciences & Sociology of Health, Impairment & Disability</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behaviour & Anxiety• Theory of Health Promotion• Medical & Social Models of Health & Disability• Barriers to health care• Inequalities in health• The prevention of oral disease within the Community
Module 4	<i>Law, Ethics and Health & Safety</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consent• Risk Management• Infection control in dentistry• Management of medical emergencies• Restraint and manual handling
Module 5	<i>Provision of Comprehensive Oral Care</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis and holistic oral care planning • The prevention of oral disease in the individual • The impact of disability on treatment techniques and patient management in a range of settings • Behaviour management e.g. hypnosis, sedation, psychological management and general anaesthesia etc.
Module 6	<p><i>Developing Services in a Community Setting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service provision for socially excluded and disadvantaged people • Identification of Special Care Groups • Oral assessment • Prevention & Health Promotion • Service evaluation
Module 7	<p><i>Clinical Effectiveness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance • Clinical Audit • Evidence-based practice • Research Methodology • Epidemiology

6.0 General Regulations

6.1 Infringement of the Regulations

The College may refuse to admit to examination, or to proceed with the examination, of any candidate who infringes any of the regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

6.2 Representation and Appeals

Candidates who desire to make representations with regard to the conduct of their examination must address them to the Examinations Officer of the College within three months of the examination and not in any circumstances to an examiner. Representations will be dealt with in accordance with the College appeals regulations (available upon request).

6.3 Application of Admittance

Applications for any part of the examination must reach the Examinations Department by the closing date specified in the examinations calendar. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed.

Applications for admission to any component of the examination must be fully completed, accompanied by the required certificates and the full amount of the fee payable for the examination.

6.4 Withdrawal

Candidates withdrawing from an examination before the closing date must do so in writing. The entrance fee will be returned less a 20% administrative charge.

Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date or who fail to attend the examination for which they have been accepted will not normally be entitled to any refund of fee. No transfer of an examination fee will be permitted.

A refund on medical or compassionate grounds, even if there is a medical certificate, is not normally permitted.



THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

1. The candidate, having passed all parts of the examination for the Diploma in Special Care Dentistry shall be given a notice subscribing their name to the Bye-Law and the required declaration. It rests with the Board of Faculty to confer upon them the Diploma of Special Care Dentistry and that until the granting of such a Diploma by the Board, they are not in any circumstances, entitled to make use of the letters DSCDRCS Eng. after their name; to exercise any other rights conferred by the membership; or be admitted as visitors to the examination.
2. The candidate, having passed all parts of the examination for the Diploma in Special Care Dentistry will be required to pay a £230 completion fee upon which his/her name will be forwarded to the Board of Faculty.
3. Upon confirmation by the Board of Faculty, the successful candidate shall then receive a Diploma bearing the Seal of the College and the Diploma shall state that such Diplomate has been successful in the examination.