**REMINDER**

**Announcement to Candidates – End of MRCS Part B OCC Exam**

**End date of the Intercollegiate MRCS Part B (oral, clinical, communication skills) Examination held Overseas – 31 January 2016**

1. The Intercollegiate MRCS Part B (OCC) examination will cease to be offered after 31 January 2016.
2. Candidates who complete the exam under the January 2011 Regulations will be subject to the attempt limitations contained within them and the end date information contained in this announcement i.e.

* Candidates are allowed up to six attempts at Part B OCC
* Candidates are allowed up to four attempts at Part B OSCE

1. Candidates should note the following:
   1. Candidates may transfer to the MRCS Part B (OSCE) at any time prior to the Part B (OCC) end date of 31 January 2016, subject to the following:
      1. They have made no more than three attempts at the Part B (OCC);
      2. They meet the attempt limitations noting that:
2. Candidates who transfer from the Part B (OCC) to the Part B (OSCE) may subsequently transfer back to the Part B (OCC) BUT they will be allowed a combined total of FOUR attempts at the MRCS Part B (OSCE) or the MRCS Part B (OCC).
3. An attempt at the DO-HNS Part 2 for the award of MRCS (ENT) will also count towards the maximum number of four attempts.
   1. Candidates, who do not pass all parts of the Part B (OCC) and have taken 4 or more attempts by 31 January 2016, will have no further opportunity to sit the MRCS examination and will be deemed ineligible to reapply.
   2. Candidates, who do not pass all parts of the Part B (OCC) cannot claim any credit or exemption towards Part B (OSCE).

It is recommended that first time applicants entering the MRCS Part B examination apply for the Intercollegiate MRCS Part B (OSCE) examination.

**Overarching principle of entry into the MRCS**

Candidates who became time-expired under the June 2006 Regulations (Revised April 2009), or who become attempt-expired under the September 2008 Regulations (Revised September 2012) or the January 2011 Regulations (Revised February 2013), are not permitted to apply for any component/part of the MRCS examination under any set of regulations.