

Guidance for Community Dental Services applying to the Faculty of Dental Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of England, for recognition of posts within the Service suitable for training for the Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery Examination.

Introduction

These guidelines are prepared to assist Community Dental Services which wish to apply to the Faculty of Dental Surgery (RCS England) for recognition of a post(s) within their Service in connection with the Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery examination.

It should be noted that in addition to the six months spent in Community Dentistry, the post holder will also need to have spent a further six months in a recognised MFDS training post. Therefore, the overriding criteria for recognition of the Post is that it should enable holders to acquire the necessary additional experience within the field generally accepted as being 'clinical community dentistry'.

The Community Dental Service post recognised for MFDS.

The post should enable the holder to gain clinical community dental experience under the guidance and tutelage of one or more senior clinicians. One Community Senior Dental Officer/Clinical Director should act as the clinical supervisor/tutor.

Supervision.

The aim of the supervision is to ensure that the trainee has access to an experienced senior clinician who:

- a. will work in the same or an adjacent surgery to the trainee on at least four sessions per week so that the trainee can learn, and gain, experience for caring for special groups treated by the Senior Clinician;
- b. has the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to foster and encourage the trainee's professional development, by discussing cases, problems and the MFDS examination.

Physical Facilities.

There should be an adequate range of clinical facilities. Surgeries will be expected to reach at least the level attained by those Community Clinics which are recognised by Regional Postgraduate Deans for the purpose of vocational training.

There should be access to those supporting diagnostic facilities which are relevant to the work being carried out. Adequate chairside staff and/or nursing staff and administrative support should be available to assist the trainee when appropriate.

Community Training Experience.

Recognised posts should provide a varied experience of clinical community dentistry of not less than eight sessions per week throughout the six months training period (or part time equivalent). Participation in research, tutorials and attendance at didactic lectures is valuable. Where these aspects are lacking at the Community Base they may be provided by day release to an academic centre recognised for the purpose. Thus allowance can be made for people undertaking a course leading to a community qualification, such as Master of Dental Science (Community Dentistry) or an MSc in Community Dental Practice.

Arrangements should be made for study of clinical subjects by the allocation of at least one study session during working hours. Study leave arrangements should encourage attendance at appropriate day release or other courses. There should be access to adequate library facilities, not necessarily in the same building in which community dental care is provided.

A named Senior Clinician should be assigned as the Supervisor. This will enable the trainee (i.e. MFDS candidate) to attain an insight into specialist areas of community dental care as well as basic levels of skills practised by all Community Dental Officers. Examples are the special care provided for medically, physically and socially disabled patients, those with learning disabilities, the special needs of elderly and housebound patients, dental programmes for pre-school children, screening and epidemiology. There should be an opportunity to gain knowledge of all these special activity areas and experience of a number of them. An attachment to a relevant hospital consultant to allow some attendance at outpatient clinics, clinical meetings and journal clubs would be an added advantage.

Applying to the Royal College of Surgeons for Recognition of a Post.

Written applications should be made to the Royal College of Surgeons. A Proforma (Appendix A) is given as a guide to the range of information required by the College. However, as the College, to date, has received only a few applications for the recognition of CDS posts, and each post has been markedly different, the proforma should be used as a guide to assist the Service to demonstrate what opportunities it can provide within a training post.

After receipt of an application the College will arrange to visit the training post. Evidence of the range of community clinical experience should be presented to those people who inspect the training post on behalf of the faculty of Dental Surgery. Also to those who advise trainees at Trust level. A file can be maintained, to provide brief clinical details of typical cases that the trainee has treated or would be able to treat. There should be an indicator for the Senior dental Officer of the degree of responsibility given (or to be given) to the trainee in managing the case. There should be sufficient clinical material to allow exposure to the community care situations above.

APPENDIX A

**APPLICATION FORM FOR RECOGNITION OF A TRAINING POST FOR MFDS
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICE**

Name of Trust:

Name of person applying for recognition of training post:

Post title within Trust:

Address:

Telephone No.:

Fax No.:

Brief overview /description of the Trust's Community Dental Service:

Details of Trainer:

Name of Trainer:

Qualifications:

Post title within Trust:

Address:

Telephone No.:

Fax No.:

Please give details of trainer's current job role and other experience relevant to being a trainer:

Details of other Senior Clinicians to be involved in training:

Name of Trainer:

Qualifications:

Post title within Trust:

Address:

Telephone No.:

Fax No.:

Please give details of trainer's current job role and other experience relevant to being a trainer:

Programme:

Please give details of where the trainee will normally work each day:

MONDAY **am** (e.g. Name of dental clinic)

pm

TUESDAY **am**

pm

WEDNESDAY **am**

pm

THURSDAY **am**

pm

FRIDAY **am**

pm

(Please mark the sessions with a *, where the trainer will normally work alongside the trainee.)

Details of the main clinic where the trainee will work:

Name of clinic/health centre:
Address:

Telephone No.:

Fax No.:

Brief description of dental clinic: *(no. of surgeries, radiographic facilities, access for patients to clinic)*

Details of other dental clinic(s) where trainee will work:

Name of clinic/health centre:
Address:

Telephone No.:

Fax No.:

Brief description of dental clinic: *(no. of surgeries, radiographic facilities, access for patients to clinic)*

Details of Library facilities:

Details of computer facilities:

Please give an idea of the range of community dental practice the trainee can expect to experience (under the following headings):

Epidemiology:

Screening:

Oral Health Promotion:

Treatment Services: *(including - 'patient groups' - special needs patients, medically compromised, learning disabilities, socially disadvantaged, 'treatment style' - domiciliary, treatment under general anaesthesia, sedation, within mobile surgery etc.*

Educational Programme

Clinical Audit/Clinical Effectiveness:

**Does the Service agree to pay any expenses incurred
by the visitor(s) in connection with the inspection**

YES/NO

Signed.....