

J R C P T B

JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS TRAINING BOARD
5 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LB

Guidance on Assessment and the e-portfolio: SpRs and StRs

The JRCPTB has received a number of queries from Specialty Registrars who seem confused about which assessments they need to have completed before their first ARCPs (Annual Review of Competence Progression). I hope that this communication will help to sort out some of this uncertainty.

Assessment for StRs

The assessment systems for each specialty were approved by PMETB in 2007. In developing these systems specialties combined some methods which are already well established for trainee physicians (e.g. MRCP, mini-CEX, DOPS, multi-source feedback) and some methods which are still under development or which have not yet been piloted and validated in this context (e.g. specialty exams, case-based discussion, patient survey). Until the full range of assessment tools is developed, piloted and validated there will need to be a degree of flexibility in applying the assessment systems and JRCPTB encourages deaneries to make allowance for this during ARCPs.

The assessment systems for each specialty are available on the specialty pages of the JRCPTB website (www.jrcptb.org.uk). We would advise all trainees to read over the ARCP decision aid and any other related documents well in advance of their ARCP and to use this as a guide for planning assessments. For these first ARCPs we would advise trainees to base their evidence around the Training Record and the validated assessment methods, including RCP exams, Mini-CEXs, DOPs and MSF (formerly called 360°). Forms for the validated Work Place Based Assessments can be downloaded from <http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/forms/Pages/default.aspx>.

For LATs and ST3 trainees, the Training Record CD-ROM is sent on completion of the Online Enrolment System. This includes having made payment for enrolment. If a trainee believes they have done this, but have not yet received their CD they should contact the Enrolments Team on enrolments@jrcptb.org.uk or 0207 935 1174 ext 283. Similarly, if they are having troubles enrolling they should contact the enrolments team.

For more information on the piloted assessment methods please see [http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/assessment/Pages/AssessmentPilotProject\(WBA\).aspx](http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/assessment/Pages/AssessmentPilotProject(WBA).aspx). For more information about the pilot or to get involved please contact Joe Booth on joe.booth@rcplondon.ac.uk or 0207 935 1174 ext 541.

Assessment for SpRs

It is expected that all SpRs in programme should be completing the Work Place Based Assessments on a regular basis and evidence of completing these assessments should be reviewed at RITAs and Penultimate Year Assessments (PYAs). DOPs and MSF were validated from October 2005 and mini-CEX from October 2006 and should be being used for assessing all trainees due for their Penultimate Year Assessments (PYAs) after 1st February 2006.

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SpRs should be completing workplace based assessments in accordance with the generic guidance shown below:

	Frequency of assessments
Mini-CEX	4 per year
DOPs	6 over 4 years
MSF	2 in 4 years

For greater guidance on which areas of the curriculum lend themselves to assessment by which method please review the StR curriculum and assessment plan for your specialty. Please be aware, that the StR assessment strategies make reference to some assessment methods that are not validated yet so please concentrate on using mini-CEX, DOPs and MSF.

E-portfolio

The e-portfolio is currently only available for CMT trainees and is currently being piloted for ST3 trainees in a few specialties in a few deaneries. The early signs are very encouraging and it is expected that it will be rolled out to all StRs in all specialties in Autumn 2008. Until the e-portfolio is approved please continue to use your Training Record folder or CD-ROM to record your training.

If you have any general queries about assessment or training, please refer to our website (www.jrcptb.org.uk) or contact your Specialty Manager.