Updated transitional arrangements for trainees on single CCT programmes in Infectious Diseases / Tropical Medicine and dual training programmes with General Internal Medicine

1. Introduction
These transitional arrangements are for trainees appointed to single specialty CCT programmes in Infectious Diseases (ID) or Tropical Medicine (TM) or dual CCT programmes with General Internal Medicine (GIM). Trainees on dual CCT programmes with Medical Microbiology (MM) / Medical Virology (MV) should refer to separate guidance. These arrangements replace those previously published by the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB).

General principles
These updated transitional arrangements for single specialty ID/TM and dual trainees in ID/TM with GIM

- meet the requirements of the General Medical Council (GMC) for curriculum transition, as outlined in the position statement Moving to the current curriculum (November 2012). In the case of the introduction of new curricula a two year transition period is allowable and no trainee may remain on the previous curriculum beyond 31 December 2017.
- clarify the position for dual trainees following on from the original transitional arrangements.
- ensure the maintenance of the educational quality, standards, and integrity in the transition from the existing GMC approved curricula and ensure that dual trainees cannot complete ID training without an ID knowledge test.
- aim to ensure fairness and equity for all trainees.
- minimise disruption to trainees’ progress to CCT.

2. Completion of training and award of CCT
In order to successfully complete ID training, all trainees must pass an ID test of knowledge. For trainees completing their ID training under the 2010 curriculum, the test of knowledge is the ID SCE; for those completing their ID training under the 2014 curriculum, the test of knowledge is the new FRCPath Part 1/Combined Infection Certificate Examination (CICE) (incorporating FRCPath Part 1 and the ID knowledge assessment).

3. Changes to the examinations
As the ID SCE examination is not an element of the assessment system in the 2014 ID/TM curricula, the JRCPTB announced on 4 June 2015 that the final sitting of the ID SCE will be September 2017. After September 2017, the only ID knowledge test available to trainees will be the FRCPath Part 1/CICE.

The FRCPath Part 1/CICE will be available from autumn 2016.

4. Implications for trainees
Trainees must ensure that they have transferred to the appropriate curriculum or curricula before attempting examinations and that the examinations they attempt are the required examinations for the curriculum that they will be completing.

a. Trainees in their final year due to complete training by 31 December 2016 are able to complete their training on the 2010 ID/TM curriculum and are not affected by these transitional arrangements, provided they complete all curricula requirements.

b. Trainees who have passed or have the opportunity to pass the ID SCE and complete training by 31 December 2017 will be able to complete the requirements for an ID CCT on the 2010 ID/TM curriculum.
c. Trainees who began their training in 2014 must transfer to the 2014 ID/TM curricula. These trainees should pass the new FRCPath Part 1/CICE and will not be required to attempt or pass the ID SCE examination.

d. Trainees who have not yet passed the ID SCE and will CCT after 31 December 2017 can choose to defer transfer and remain on the 2010 curriculum until such time as they pass the ID SCE. This process must be completed by 31 December 2017. In circumstances where a trainee does not pass the ID SCE by 31 December 2017, they must transfer to the 2014 curriculum and pass the FRCPath Part 1/CICE to be eligible for a CCT.

e. Trainees who have passed the ID SCE and whose CCT date is after 31 December 2017 can transfer to the 2014 ID curriculum and the ID SCE will be accepted in place of the new FRCPath Part 1/CICE.

5. Practical arrangements for these transitional arrangements

Trainees should read the updated transitional arrangements carefully and discuss their way forward with their Deanery/LETB (educational supervisor and training programme director) in the first instance and approach JRCPTB to deal with any complex questions if necessary. JRCPTB will take an overview of the transition of trainees to ensure that the general principles outlined above are followed. TPDs and trainees will be contacted with further advice according to the following groups:

a. Trainees in their final year of CCT training, due to complete training by 31 December 2016, will not need to transfer curricula as long as they complete all requirements for the award of the CCT.

b. Trainees who have passed or have the opportunity to pass the ID SCE and will complete training by 31 December 2017 can complete their training on the 2010 ID curriculum.

c. Trainees who began their training in 2014 will be required to transfer to the 2014 ID/TM curricula and obtain the FRCPath Part 1/CICE.

d. Trainees who have not yet passed the ID SCE but CCT after 31 December 2017 can remain on the 2010 curriculum until they pass the ID SCE and then transfer to the 2014.

e. Trainees on the 2010 ID/TM curriculum who have not passed or do not pass the SCE by the end of 2017 will need to transfer to the 2014 curriculum and pass the FRCPath Part 1/CICE.

Trainees should discuss their position with their supervisor and/or programme director. If you have any queries please contact curriculum@jrcptb.org.uk.