Diploma in Geriatric Medicine –

Proposed changes to eligibility criteria

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the British Geriatrics Society (BGS) have been working closely to review the current eligibility criteria for the Diploma in Geriatric Medicine (DGM), to ensure it remains relevant in the evolving context of modern multidisciplinary care for older people.

To reflect this the Royal College of Physicians has approved an amendment to section 2.0 of the DGM regulations. The current eligibility criteria are as follows:

All candidates must hold a primary medical qualification recognised by the Royal College of Physicians of London (RCP).

Eligible candidates will normally have held, or be currently holding, a post approved for general professional training in a department specialising in the care of the elderly for a minimum of four months, or have had experience over a period of two years since qualification, in a setting in which care of older people formed a significant part.

The change, applicable from the 2021 DGM written examination onwards, is as follows:

All statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners, currently registered and in good standing with the relevant regulator, and with no restrictions on their practice, are eligible to apply to take the DGM. Physician associates who are on the Managed Voluntary Register, which is held by the RCP and Faculty of Physician Associates, are also eligible to apply.

For applicants declaring a UK registration, the RCP assessment unit will check registration with the relevant UK regulator (GMC, NMC, or Health and Care Professions Council, for example), including a check for any restriction to practise. Applicants declaring registration on the Physician Associates Managed Voluntary Register will have this registration checked with the Faculty of Physician Associates, including a check for any restrictions to practise.

Applicants who hold registration with a regulator outside the UK will be required to get their educational supervisor or line manager to submit a reference form confirming the following regarding the applicant:

- Their regulatory body
- Their regulatory body registration number (or equivalent)
- That the applicant is in good standing in their professional practice
- A general reference detailing why they are supportive of an application from the named individual
Wherever possible the registration details of the applicant will be verified with the relevant regulator, and the RCP reserves the right to contact the referee directly if further information is required.

The RCP reserves the right to verify candidate’s eligibility with their awarding institution, and to refuse entry to the examination to candidates who do not meet the eligibility criteria set out above.

This addendum is intended as a temporary measure to ensure newly eligible candidates can apply for the 2021 DGM written examination. It will remain in place until the next full review of the DGM regulations, when section 2.0 will be amended to reflect the above.

Any queries regarding the change to eligibility criteria should be sent to dgm@rcplondon.ac.uk.