



DGM Additional Attempts Policy FAQs

All medical royal colleges and faculties are required by the General Medical Council (GMC), to introduce a limit on the number of attempts at their examinations. The GMC have specified that the maximum number of attempts allowed at each part of the examination should be six.

When did the policy come into effect?

The policy came into force from 1 January 2014. The first exam affected was the DGM Written 2014/1 examination (applications opened in February 2014); all other exams held after 1 January 2014 will be affected by this policy.

How do I get an additional attempt after having six attempts at an examination?

As a candidate you will need to:

- discuss your past examination attempts with your educational supervisor (or equivalent), to locate areas of persistent weakness and produce and implement an educational plan designed to target these weak areas.
- once additional educational experience has been undertaken discuss with your educational supervisor (or equivalent) when you should attempt the examination again
- download and complete the additional attempt form
- your educational supervisor and training programme director (or equivalents) must sign the form confirming that you have demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skill so that a pass result is highly likely at the next attempt
- your educational supervisor must then scan in a copy of the form and email it to dgm@rcplondon.ac.uk ; please note the form must be emailed from your educational supervisor's email address
- once the form has been received and verified by Central Office you will be granted an extra attempt at the examination. You will then be allowed to apply for the examination in the usual way.

If I am absent from an examination will it count as an attempt?

From January 2014, if a candidate has not attended the examination and is recorded as absent, this will be recorded as one attempt. A withdrawal (as determined by the regulations on acceptable withdrawals) will not be deemed an attempt.

What will be required to gain an additional attempt if I have already had six or more attempts?

Candidates applying for further attempts beyond six at any part of the Diploma in Geriatric Medicine will be required to submit a form signed by their educational supervisor* and training programme director* (or equivalents) confirming that sufficient educational progress has been made to merit a subsequent attempt.

The process is intended to place the responsibility on candidates to discuss their past and subsequent examination attempts with their educational supervisor, to locate areas of persistent weakness and produce and implement an educational plan designed to target these weak areas with a view to enabling the candidate to pass. The nature of the educational activities will depend on the educational needs of the applicant and would likely contain a mix of private study, in service training, and more formal teaching.

* The definition of an Educational Supervisor is 'A trainer who is selected and appropriately trained to be responsible for the overall supervision and management of a specified trainee's educational progress during a training placement or series of placements.' This person, together with the candidate, should review the candidate's previous attempt(s), discuss areas for improvement, and agree appropriate additional learning. If the candidate is not attached to any such trainer, their application can be supported by a consultant (or equivalent) as long as the consultant was part of the process of review and agreement for additional learning.

* A Training Programme Director may be a UK specific term and the following definition is provided to help international candidates find a suitable equivalent: 'A Training Programme Director has responsibility for managing specialty training programmes. They take into account the collective needs of the trainees in the programme and provide support for educational supervisors. They contribute to the annual assessment outcome process in the Specialty and ensure that there is a policy for careers management which covers the needs of all trainees in their specialty programmes and posts'.