

## **Update on changes to MRCP(UK) exam requirements**

The JDC welcomes the Medical Programme Board's decision on recruitment to medical speciality ST3 posts, commencing in August 2012

In 2012 applicants to medical speciality ST3 posts will now only be required to have passed their part 2 written examination, but do not need to have passed the PACES exam to receive an offer of an ST3 post. Candidates will, however, need to have full CMT competencies, which includes all parts of the MRCP(UK) including PACES, to be able to actually take up their ST3 appointments. This means that candidates who have not passed PACES at the time they receive their ST3 offer will need to have done so by the time the ST3 post starts, otherwise the offer will be withdrawn.

MRCP(UK) has also announced that a new results release process will be introduced for the MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES). This process will be in place from the third diet in 2011 and will enable UK candidates to view their results via the MRCP(UK) website within approximately 10 working days of sitting the examination.

The JDC also look forward to the outcome of the review into the MRCP(UK) exam process, which the MRCP(UK) have committed to. We shall communicate these outcomes as they become available.

[Read the full statement issued by MRCP\(UK\)](#)

### **Background**

It was announced earlier this year (May 2011) that in 2012 applicants will be required to have passed the full MRCP(UK) including PACES to be eligible to receive an offer of a ST3 post. The reason for this change was to prevent a shortfall of ST3 doctors caused by applicants who fail to complete MRCP in time, which would impact on service delivery in acute medical specialties.

The JDC were disappointed with the decision which was made and had concerns that candidates were being asked to complete their MRCP exam earlier in their careers and in a significantly shortened timeframe, in order to obtain a ST3 post in 2012.

Due to more trainees than anticipated passing the PACES exam during the second diet than expected, thereby reducing the potential risk to service delivery, a review of the decision was accelerated by the Medical Programme Board.

[Read the BMA's previous statement on this issue](#)