

Guidance for Deaneries and Colleges on Combined Programme applications

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Guidance for Deaneries and Colleges on Combined Programme applications..... | 1 |
| What is the combined programme?..... | 2 |
| Policy changes | 2 |
| Deanery responsibilities | 3 |
| College responsibilities..... | 4 |
| Enrolment on a training programme through the combined programme pathway | 4 |
| Identify when a trainee is working towards the award of a CCT or CESR/CEGPR via a Combined Programme application. | 4 |
| College confirmation of appointment onto combined programme | 5 |
| Apply to the GMC for approval of trainee's appointment at higher entry level..... | 5 |
| Applying for specialist/GP registration through the combined programme | 7 |
| When will a CCT be issued?..... | 7 |
| When will a CESR/CEGPR be issued? | 7 |
| Process for application..... | 7 |
| Retrospective granting of CCT to CESR(CP) holders..... | 8 |
| Verification of requirements for retrospective requests | 8 |
| Required minimum training times for all UK specialties | 9 |
| Doctors on a dual training programme..... | 9 |
| Doctors training with a sub-specialty | 10 |
| Additional training time..... | 10 |
| Locum appointments for specialty training..... | 10 |
| Required minimum training times for all UK specialties | 11 |

What is the combined programme?

Some trainees wish to join an approved specialist training programme having previously undertaken training or gained experience in posts that weren't prospectively approved by the GMC. The combined programme provides a pathway through which this previous experience can be recognised and lead to less than the indicative training time spent in an approved programme.

Deaneries, Health Education and Improvement Wales and Health Education England local teams (from here referred to as 'deaneries'), and Royal Colleges and Faculties (from here referred to as 'colleges') can decide that this non-approved training, experience and/ or qualifications has allowed a trainee to develop some of the professional capabilities required by the approved curriculum. The trainee can then enter into an approved training programme above the usual entry point, and go on to complete the remainder of the programme within approved posts. For example, a trainee could be recruited into higher specialist training at ST3, having demonstrated through their previous training and/or experience that they hold the competencies we would expect a trainee to hold at the end of core training.

Once appointed onto an approved training programme, the training of those on a combined programme is managed following the same processes as a CCT trainee.

These trainees can make an application for entry to the specialist or GP register, at the completion of the combined programme.

Policy changes

All doctors who complete a combined programme can apply for entry to the specialist/GP register. The certificate issued will depend on whether the trainee has met the minimum training duration for their specialty in the UK as defined by EU legislation*.

* As per article 25(2), and Annex V, of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC (as amended)

Doctors who trained through the combined programme pathway were all originally issued with a CESR or CEGPR certificate.

Now doctors on a combined programme who have completed the minimum amount of time training in the UK, or who are training in specialties for which there is no minimum training time, will be eligible for the award of a CCT. Currently EU legislation sets out, for the majority of specialties, a minimum amount of time that doctors must have spent in approved training in the UK*. However that is usually less than the indicative length of the UK training programme. Combined programme trainees who do not meet the minimum UK training time for their specialty will continue to be issued with a CESR/CEGPR.

These changes only apply to trainees on the combined programme who have spent the minimum amount of time training on a UK approved training programme, or who are in a specialty for which there is no minimum training time. There are no changes to the main CESR/CEGPR route to specialist/GP registration.

Retrospective requests will also be accepted for issuing a CCT to doctors who were previously granted a CESR through the combined programme who meet the requirements.

This guidance explains the responsibilities of deaneries and colleges in these processes.

Deanery responsibilities

- Identify when a trainee is working towards the award of a CCT or CESR/CEGPR via a Combined Programme application.
- Apply to the GMC for approval of a trainee's entry into training at a higher entry point than usual.
- Submit information to college in the usual way at the end of training, for trainee to be recommended for a CCT or CESR/CEGPR.

* This minimum training time stated is on the basis of full-time training. Those training less than full-time must meet the full-time equivalent training time.

College responsibilities

- Approval of deanery appointment of trainee onto the combined programme.
- Recommend the trainee for a CCT or CESR/CEGPR in the usual way at the end of training.
- Verification of requirements for retrospective requests, where required.

Enrolment on a training programme through the combined programme pathway

The GMC's process for applicants joining training through the combined programme pathway and working towards a CCT or CESR(CP)/CEGPR(CP) is set out below.

Identify when a trainee is working towards the award of a CCT or CESR/CEGPR via a Combined Programme application.

- When a trainee is recruited onto a combined programme pathway to specialist/GP registration, the professional capabilities they gained prior to joining the training programme are considered as part of the process of their recruitment. This allows the deanery to determine the appropriate level at which the trainee should enter training (and these capabilities are reviewed again at the trainee's first ARCP).
- When this happens, the deanery needs to identify that this trainee will apply for entry to the specialist/GP register via the combined programme pathway. The deanery should also confirm to the trainee which certificate type it is anticipated that they will be eligible for (a CCT or CESR/CEGPR) upon successful completion of their training. However, it should be acknowledged that this could change if the trainee completes more or less training in the UK than currently expected. For example, if a trainee spends longer on the training programme than originally anticipated, and their new total period of UK training then exceeds the minimum under EU legislation, they would become eligible for a CCT rather than a CESR/CEGPR.
- In line with the usual process the deanery will contact the trainee's college to ask them to approve the enrolment and the level. You will need to provide the college with the entry level the deanery believes the trainee should enter at, and the information that has been taken into account in making this decision. This information can be filled in on form CN19 and provided to the college.

- A deanery will appoint a trainee to the relevant Specialty Training Programme and award them a National Training Number (NTN) taking account of any training or experience that wasn't prospectively approved by the GMC. All combined programme pathway trainees will be issued with an NTN which ends in 'CP'.
- It remains a trainee's responsibility to enrol with the [relevant Royal College or Faculty](#).
- Deaneries will contact the relevant college to ask them to approve the enrolment and the level at which trainees on the combined programme have been appointed.

College confirmation of appointment onto combined programme

- The deanery will inform the relevant college of the proposed entry level for the trainee, and provide the information that has been considered in making this decision. This information will be provided to the college through GMC form CN19.
- The college will assess the information provided and confirm to the deanery that they endorse the trainee's appointment at the specified entry level, as appropriate.

Apply to the GMC for approval of trainee's appointment at higher entry level

- The deanery will make an application via GMC Connect for approval of a trainee's entry into training at a higher entry point than usual. This is done in the same way as an application for Out of Programme (OOP) approval.
- The deanery will need to log into GMC Connect, click on "**Requests**" and then "**Add Request**". Then, select the type '**Registration Post Approval**' and the sub-type '**CP**'. Please attach:
 - A completed form CN19

- Confirmation (by letter / email) from the relevant College that they endorse the appointment.

[Skip to content](#)

Working with doctors Working for patients

GMC Connect

General
Medical
Council

[Home](#) | [Logout](#)

Logged in as Marie Holland - Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery

User Group - Deanery [Change Group](#)

Document Folders ▶

Guidance & Forms ▶

Requests ▶

Programmes ▶

Posts ▶

Trainers ▶

NTS ▶

Account Settings ▶

Request

Type

Sub Type

Details

Add Document
Submit
Cancel

 [Browsealoud](#)

- The GMC will consider requests for enrolment approval and respond within ten days. If we need more information, we will contact the deanery.
- Once the enrolment is confirmed, the GMC will write to the trainee, their college, and their deanery:
 - confirming that upon successful completion of training, they will be eligible to apply for specialist/GP registration via a combined programme application
 - providing a unique number, to be used by the college when making notifications and recommendations for the award of a CCT or CESR/CEGPR for the combined programme.

Applying for specialist/GP registration through the combined programme

When will a CCT be issued?

- Where a trainee's UK training meets the minimum time prescribed by Annex V of the Directive on recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC) (as amended), or where a specialty has no minimum training time, then successful applicants to the specialist register will be issued with a CCT.

A list of the required minimum training time for each UK specialty is provided at the end of this guidance.

When will a CESR/CEGPR be issued?

- Where the minimum training duration in the UK is not met, then successful combined programme applicants will instead be granted entry onto the Specialist Register via a CESR, or to the GP Register via a CEGPR.
- In recognition of the assurance given by professional capabilities being demonstrated and assessed within an approved training programme, the GMC does not need to see the evidence usually provided for a CESR application. The fee is also the same as that charged for a CCT.

A list of the required minimum training time for each UK specialty is provided at the end of this guidance.

Process for application

- Once a trainee has completed the remainder of their programme, their college will recommend them to the GMC, confirming the certificate to which they are entitled.
 - It is possible that a trainee will be recommended for a different certificate to the one they were originally told they would be given. For example, if the doctor was working towards a CESR/CEGPR but has completed additional training time in the UK to that originally anticipated on entering the programme, they may now be eligible for a CCT instead.
- A CCT can be issued where a trainee on a combined programme achieves the remainder of all the required professional capabilities, including completion of all required assessments from the point of entry to the programme, which may include a UK exit exam. As long as the deanery and college determine that the

professional capabilities have all been achieved and demonstrated to their satisfaction, then a CCT can be issued.

- On application, the GMC will grant a CCT or CESR/CEGPR as indicated by the college.
- If a trainee does not achieve the remainder of all the required professional capabilities within their specialist training programme, the college will be unable to recommend them. This includes passing any required assessment systems, such as exams. Doctors in this position who feel they can evidence their knowledge, skills and experience are equivalent to the relevant curriculum can apply for specialist registration via a standard CESR application. They will need to provide documentary evidence of their knowledge, skills and experience.

Retrospective granting of CCT to CESR(CP) holders

The GMC will also grant CCTs retrospectively to doctors who have previously been issued with a CESR through the combined programme, and who have completed the minimum amount of time training in the UK for their specialty, or who trained in a specialty for which there is no minimum training time.

To be retrospectively granted with a CCT doctors will need to make a direct request to the GMC, but will not pay a fee.

If the doctor's speciality has a minimum training time, we will work with the relevant college to check that the individual has met the requirement for minimum UK training time, and then issue the certificate to the doctor.

If the doctor's speciality has no minimum training time then we will not need to contact the relevant college. A certificate will be issued on verification of completion of a combined programme against the GMC's records.

Verification of requirements for retrospective requests

Doctors will be asked to contact the GMC to make a retrospective request (for which there is no fee).

Requests for specialities with no minimum training time

The GMC will verify that the doctor has completed a combined programme in their stated speciality. A CCT certificate will then be issued to the doctor.

Requests for specialities with a minimum training time

- GMC receives initial request. The GMC will check that the doctor was issued with a CESR/CEGPR through the combined programme, and if so provide the doctor with a form to complete.
- Once the GMC have received a doctor's request, we will send this to the relevant college, for verification that the doctor in question completed the required minimum training time.
- The college should provide the GMC with information on all the individual posts the trainee held in their approved programme. This will enable the GMC to determine whether the minimum training time has been met. The GMC will pay the college for providing this information.
- The GMC will then confirm to the doctor whether their request has been successful, and where appropriate, issue the CCT.

A list of the required minimum training time for each UK specialty is provided at the end of this guidance.

Required minimum training times for all UK specialties

Each specialty listed in the Directive under Annex V of 2005/36/EC (as amended) has a defined minimum number of years training in the UK which a doctor must complete to be eligible for a CCT.

All specialties approved for postgraduate training in the UK are listed in the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Order 2010 (as amended), along with the minimum training time for most specialties. As not all CCT specialties in the UK are listed in the Directive, both pieces of legislation have been included below for guidance.

Where a specialty only has a minimum training time which is listed under the PMET Order, this minimum number of years training can include training undertaken within and outside of the UK.

Where a specialty has no minimum training period listed in either piece of legislation, trainees on the combined programme will be eligible for a CCT.

Doctors on a dual training programme

Where both specialties have a minimum training time under the RPQ Directive, the doctor only needs to train in the UK for the minimum training time specified for one of their

specialties. However where applicable, they must meet the higher of the specified minimum training times.

- For example, a doctor training in Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus (which has a minimum training time of 3 years) and General (Internal) Medicine (which has a minimum training time of 5 years), would have to train for a minimum of 5 years in the UK to be eligible for a CCT.

Where one of the doctor's specialties does not have a minimum training time listed under the Directive, the doctor will still need to meet the minimum training time in their other specialty to be granted a CCT.

- For example, a doctor training in General Psychiatry (which has a minimum training time of 4 years) and Old Age Psychiatry (which has no minimum training time), would need to undertake a minimum of four years training in the UK to be eligible for a CCT.

Doctors training with a sub-specialty

Doctors training with a sub-specialty must have trained in the UK for the minimum number of years specified for their parent specialty, and time spent training in their sub-specialty in the UK can contribute to this.

Additional training time

Where a doctor undertakes additional training time in the UK, for any reason (including an ARCP outcome 3), this can contribute to the minimum UK training time required for eligibility for CCT.

Locum appointments for specialty training

Locum Appointment for Training (LAT) posts can be counted towards a CCT, and therefore towards the amount of training time that a doctor has completed in the UK. This is subject to college confirmation that the LAT post was counted towards the CCT.

Required minimum training times for all UK specialties

| Specialty | Minimum training time under | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------|
| | RPO Directive | PMET Order |
| Acute internal medicine | N/A | No Minimum |
| Allergy | N/A | No Minimum |
| Anaesthetics | 3 | 3 |
| Audio vestibular medicine | N/A | No Minimum |
| Aviation and space medicine | N/A | 4 |
| Cardiology | 4 | 4 |
| Cardio-thoracic surgery (also known as thoracic surgery) | 5 | 5 |
| Chemical pathology | 4 | 4 |
| Child and adolescent psychiatry | 4 | 4 |
| Clinical genetics | 4 | 4 |
| Clinical neurophysiology | 4 | 4 |
| Clinical oncology | 4 | 4 |
| Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics | 4 | 4 |
| Clinical radiology | 4 | 4 |
| Community sexual health and reproduction | N/A | No Minimum |
| Dermatology | 4 | 4 |
| Diagnostic neuropathology | N/A | No Minimum |

| Specialty | Minimum training time under | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| | RPO Directive | PMET Order |
| Emergency medicine (also known as accident and emergency medicine) | 5 | 5 |
| Endocrinology and diabetes mellitus | 3 | 3 |
| Forensic histopathology | N/A | No Minimum |
| Forensic psychiatry | N/A | No Minimum |
| Gastro-enterology | 4 | 4 |
| General (internal) medicine | 5 | 5 |
| General Practice* | 3 | |
| General psychiatry | 4 | 4 |
| General surgery | 5 | 5 |
| Genito-urinary medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Geriatric medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Haematology | 3 | 3 |
| Histopathology | 4 | 4 |
| Immunology | 4 | 4 |
| Infectious diseases | 4 | 4 |
| Intensive care medicine | N/A | No Minimum |
| Medical microbiology (listed in Annex V as Medical microbiology and virology) | 4 | 4 |
| Medical oncology | 5 | 5 |

| Specialty | Minimum training time under | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| | RPO Directive | PMET Order |
| Medical ophthalmology | N/A | No Minimum |
| Medical psychotherapy | N/A | No Minimum |
| Medical virology (listed in Annex V as Medical microbiology and virology) | 4 | 4 |
| Neurology | 4 | 4 |
| Neurosurgery | 5 | 5 |
| Nuclear medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Obstetrics and gynaecology | 4 | 4 |
| Occupational medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Old age psychiatry | N/A | No Minimum |
| Ophthalmology | 3 | 3 |
| Oral and maxillo-facial surgery | 4 | 4 |
| Otolaryngology | 3 | 3 |
| Paediatric and perinatal pathology | N/A | No Minimum |
| Paediatric cardiology | N/A | No Minimum |
| Paediatric surgery | 5 | 5 |
| Paediatrics | 4 | 4 |
| Palliative medicine | N/A | No Minimum |
| Pharmaceutical medicine | N/A | No Minimum |
| Plastic surgery | 5 | 5 |

| Specialty | Minimum training time under | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | RPO Directive | PMET Order |
| Psychiatry of learning disability | N/A | No Minimum |
| Public health medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Rehabilitation medicine | N/A | No Minimum |
| Renal medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Respiratory medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Rheumatology | 4 | 4 |
| Sport and exercise medicine | N/A | No Minimum |
| Trauma and orthopaedic surgery | 5 | 5 |
| Tropical medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Urology | 5 | 5 |
| Vascular surgery | 5 | 5 |