

## Data supplement DS1

### Survey

#### Introduction

Dear Colleague

The General Medical Council has asked that all medical Royal Colleges should have an exit examination or assessment that trainees take prior to being accepted onto the Specialist Register (i.e. toward the end of Higher Training). Most other medical Colleges already have exit examinations.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has agreed that its current focus should be on improving the MRCPsych examinations for Core Trainees. There are no plans to introduce an exit exam immediately, but work on designing an exit assessment is likely to begin soon with a view to introducing it in the next few years. The Psychiatric Trainees' Committee (PTC) decided that preparing for this should be one of our highest priorities. We therefore set up a working group to get trainees involved from the beginning. If an exit examination has to be introduced, our priorities are:

- To ensure the exit exam assesses what is really important for new consultants.
- To ensure the views of trainees have a major role in informing what the exam will look like and what it will assess.

We felt that our first step should be to gather views from as many trainees as possible. This will help us develop a set of options which will be the starting point for any future College work on the exit exam. We would therefore be grateful if you could complete this survey. As you answer these questions remember that an assessment should be fair, reliable and should assess skills that will benefit patients and services. Presently, we have a blank canvas, so please suggest anything you feel is appropriate.

Many thanks for your participation.  
The PTC Exam Working Group

#### Your details

1. What is your level of training?

Core trainee / Specialty (Higher) trainee / Consultant < 5 years / Consultant 5 years or more

2. If you are a Higher Trainee or Consultant please tell us which specialty area you work in: (Note: Consultants should choose the area which best reflects your current practice)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health / Forensic Psychiatry / General Adult Psychiatry / Learning Disabilities / Old Age Psychiatry / Psychotherapy / Core trainee or not applicable

#### Content

3. Please arrange the following areas for assessment in order of importance (most important first)

Teamworking / Leadership / Clinical / Research Methods / Teaching & Education / Medicolegal / Professionalism / Communication / Management

4. Are there are other areas not mentioned above that an exit assessment should cover?

Free text response

5. If knowledge-based should the assessment be general or subspecialty specific?

General / Subspecialty-based / Both

Please explain you main reason/s for this. Free text response

#### Format

6. Should this be a primarily practical, written or oral examination/assessment?

Written / Practical / Oral ("viva") / Mixed

Please tell us your main reason/s for this. Free text response.

7. If it is a written examination/assessment, what format should this be?

Multiple choice questions / Extended matching questions / Brief short answers / Essay / Reflective report and "viva"

Please tell us your main reason/s for this. Are there any other types of written assessment you would suggest and why? Free text response.

8. If it is a practical examination, what format should this take?

Assessments in the workplace / Observed Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE-like assessment using actors)

Please tell us your main reason/s for this is. Are there any other types of practical assessment you would suggest and why? Free text response.

9. If it is an oral examination what format should this take?

Structured "viva" clinical and nonclinical topics / "Viva" with patient management problems / Both

Please tell us your main reason/s for this. Are there any other types of oral assessment you would suggest and why? Free text response.

10. Should the exam award a certificate or diploma?

Yes / No / Not sure or does not matter

*Open questions*

This is the last part of the survey. These open questions might take a little longer but your comments here will really help us.

If you're in a rush try to list just the key things you'd like us to consider!

11. What do you think the top three priorities for those developing an exit exam should be? Please explain your reasons. Free text response.
12. What do you think are the top three challenges the people developing an exit assessment will need to consider? Please detail these and how you think these may be overcome. Free text response.
13. Are there any comments you would like to make or specific questions/concerns you would like to raise at this stage? Free text response.