

## Guidelines on Learning Needs Assessment Attempts

The HEE Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) are composed of MCQ papers and where required (a Band 3) the Simulated Surgery assessment

The MCQ consists of two MCQ papers which are available online, they are the Professional Dilemmas paper (this is an SJT) and the Clinical Problem-Solving paper

These are held eight times a year at approximately six-week intervals

The applicant must be registered with the HEE scheme through the NRO and have been approved to sit the MCQ following a career review interview by the designated HEE Educational Lead

The applicant is not required to be registered with the GMC to take the MCQ, but to sit the Simulated Surgery they must have evidence that they have applied to the GMC for full and GP Registration with a Licence to Practice.

The applicant will be given access to the on-line learning resources after registration with the NRO and following approval to enter the scheme by the HEE Educational Lead

Following the career and learning needs review by the HEE local office Educational Lead the applicant will be offered the option of an HEE [observation placement](#) in a GP practice (in exceptional cases this does not need to be an approved Training practice). This will be arranged by the HEE local office and the NRO & NHS England Cheshire and Mersey team notified. The practice may claim a payment from the NRO to support this placement and the candidate must sign the observer's agreement.

The MCQ's can be sat on-line worldwide in HEE (NRO) approved assessment centres

Successful attempts at the MCQ remain valid for 12 calendar months from the date of the result allowing further progression through the scheme programme. Candidates obtaining a Band 1 or 2 outcomes may not progress and will be advised about their learning needs and it is recommended that a suitable interval is taken before the next attempt to allow time for the candidate to address their learning needs.

If a Band 1 outcome is obtained then the candidate should defer their next attempt for at least 3 to 6 months, if a Band 2 outcome is obtained then a resit should be deferred for at least 3 months to allow for further learning and knowledge

If one MCQ assessment has been passed the candidate is only required to re-sit the failed paper again. A total of 4 attempts are permitted at each paper and the single pass is only valid for 12 calendar months.

If the applicant has not progressed to the next stage of the scheme within the permitted 12 months, they will be required to re-sit both of the MCQ's. The Local HEE Educational lead may be able to consider exceptional mitigating circumstances, in a limited number of cases; and in consultation with NHSE/I Cheshire & Mersey team together with the NRO, then a longer period may be permitted.

Attempts at the MCQ papers and the Simulated Surgery is centrally funded by NHSE/I, Where a candidate has already obtained a Band 3 pass but wishes to attain a higher Band outcome to change the requirement to sit the Simulated Surgery, they may retake the CPS

paper but will be subject to the current charge in place All progression through the HEE scheme is subject to final approval by the Cheshire & Mersey NHSE/I team

## **All candidates attaining a Band 4 or 5 at their first attempt at the MCQ**

Candidates attaining a Band 5 in the CPS and a pass in the PD MCQ will be approved for direct entry to a one month clinical placement subject to GMC registration and approval by NHSE/I. to be added to the MPL with conditions

Band 4 in the CPS and a pass in the PD MCQ will be approved for direct entry to a three month clinical placement subject to GMC registration and approval by NHSE/I. to be added to the MPL with conditions

## **All candidates attaining a Band 3 at their first attempt at the MCQ**

Band 3 in the CPS and a pass in the PD MCQ will be required to take and pass the Simulated Surgery within 12 calendar months of the MCQ results

## **All candidates attaining a Band 2 or 1 at their first attempt at the MCQ**

Band 2 or 1 will be required to re-sit the MCQ's and any passes in one paper remain valid for 12 calendar months (re-sits will be subject to the current fee)

Candidates attaining a Band 2 are advised that they may re-sit the MCQ after 3 months (i.e. not the next sitting at 6 weeks) and Band 1 outcomes are advised they should not attempt to re-sit until at least 6 months to allow a suitable interval before the next attempt so the candidate is able to fully address their identified learning needs. The HEE Educational Lead should advise the applicant on their learning plan including further Observational placements (un-funded if they already have undertaken one)

## **Permitted further attempts at the MCQ (by candidates wishing to improve their outcome)**

Where a candidate has already attained a pass at the MCQ but wishes to attain a higher Band outcome to change the placement recommendation period will be permitted to do so but will be subject to the full LNA fee. A total of 4 attempts are allowed at each paper and a pass is only valid for 12 calendar months. Progression to bypass the Simulated Surgery requires approval of the NHSE/I Medical Director

### **For 1<sup>st</sup> time re-sit Band 4 applicants**

If they then obtain a Band 5 or 4 outcome at the first re-sit they can then be permitted to directly enter a one or three month I&R placement as appropriate without taking the Simulated Surgery

### **For 1<sup>st</sup> time re-sit Band 3 applicants**

If they then obtain a Band 5 or 4 outcome at the first re-sit they can then be permitted to directly enter a one or three month I&R placement as appropriate without taking the Simulated surgery

### **For all re-sit Band 1 and 2 applicants**

All other Band outcomes re-sitting the MCQ will be required to take the Simulated surgery regardless of their new Band Outcome

## **All candidates sitting the MCQ for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> attempt**

Subsequent re-sits at the MCQ (i.e. a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> attempt) regardless of the Band outcome will all be required to undertake the Simulated Surgery (their 1<sup>st</sup> attempt remains free). A total of 4 attempts are allowed at each paper and a pass is only valid for 12 calendar months.

