

Guidelines on Learning Needs Assessment Attempts

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

The I&R MCQ consists of two MCQ papers which are available on line, 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 I&R scheme through the NRO and have been approved to sit the MCQ following a career review interview by the designated HEE I&R Lead

The applicant is not required to be registered with the GMC to take the MCQ, but must have evidence that they have applied to the GMC to sit the Simulated Surgery

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 I&R Lead

Following the career and learning needs review by the HEE local office I&R scheme Lead the applicant will be offered the option of the one week 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 £500 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 I&R scheme. Candidates obtaining a Band 1 or 2 outcomes 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 one MCQ assessment has been passed the candidate is only required to re-sit the failed paper again only. A total of 4 attempts are allowed 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 they will be required to re-sit the MCQ's. Though the Local HEE lead may be able to consider mitigating circumstances, it is only in a limited number of cases; and in consultation with NHS England Cheshire & Mersey team together with the NRO, that a longer period may be permitted.

The first attempt at the MCQ papers is centrally funded by NHS Eng, all subsequent sittings are subject to the current charge in place (currently if re-sitting both MCQs the fee is £150 and if only one MCQ then the fee is £75 and the fee for Simulated surgery re-sits is currently £850)

All progression through the I&R scheme is subject to approval by the Lead NHS England team (Cheshire & Mersey)

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

Band 5 (in both papers) will be approved for direct entry to a one month I&R placement subject to GMC registration and approval by NHS Eng.to be added to the MPL with conditions

Band 4 (in both papers or a 5 & 4) will be approved for direct entry to a three month I&R placement subject to GMC registration and approval by NHS Eng.to be added to the MPL with conditions

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

Band 3 (in both papers or either a 5/3 or 4/3) 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 local 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 pathway they 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.

For 1st 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 1st 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 3rd or 4th attempt

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