

**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
IN IRELAND**

Regulations relating to the

**Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Faculty of Dentistry
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
(Dip PCD RCSI)**

2012

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1. INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains the Regulations for the Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry Dental Care of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The Faculty of Dentistry, RCSI wishes to acknowledge the support and input from the Irish Faculty of Primary Dental Care and the Irish Dental Association into this examination.

Further information can be obtained from the Examinations Department at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

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The Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is registrable in the Dental Register of Ireland as an additional qualification provided that the name of the holder already appears in that Register. Details regarding the registration of the Diploma may be obtained from the Registrar of the Dental Council, 57 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland

2. PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION

The Dip PCDRCSI examination is intended to provide evidence of knowledge, experience and clinical competence in all aspects of Primary Care Dentistry beyond that recognised by the primary dental qualification.

The examination will have an emphasis on all aspects of Primary Care Dentistry as listed in the syllabus, at a level expected of a graduate with at least 12 months of post qualification experience in clinical dentistry and having undertaken no less than the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) prescribed.

The award of the Dip PCDRCSI will be a marker that can identify those dentists with the knowledge, understanding and experience of clinical practice of Primary Care Dentistry sufficient to continue with further suitable broad based clinical, para-clinical and practice management experience and practice based training.

Subject to the regulations for entry, holders of the Diploma will be in a position to enter Part 2 of the Membership of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (MFDRC SI) examination.

3. THE EXAMINATION

The examination will be held at least twice a year in Ireland. The examination will be conducted in English.

The dates of the examination and the fees payable for admission to the examination are set out in the examination calendar, which are published annually by the College and are available on the Faculty of Dentistry website.

The Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry Examination has two sections, namely section 1 and section 2. All parts of the syllabus will be examined in both sections of the examination.

(a) Section 1 (Multiple Choice Questions)

This section of the examination consists of:

- A Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) paper of 75 questions each consisting of a stem and five branches, with each branch being independently **TRUE** or **FALSE**, of two and a half hours duration.

(b) Section 2 (Clinical Reasoning Assessments)

This section of the examination consists of:

- 10 Clinical Reasoning Assessments (CRA), each up to ten minutes' duration. This section may involve clinically relevant material presented through the medium of digital projection. Aspects of the practical applications of clinical, diagnostic, patient management and practice management will be tested. This part of the examination will last approximately 100 minutes. The examination is set to a level appropriate to 12 months postgraduate experience.

Candidates will be awarded either a pass or a fail in the examination.

4. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to enter for the Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry examination, candidates **must** provide evidence of the followings:

- (a) Possession of a primary dental qualification that is acceptable to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
- (b) At least 12 months of whole time equivalent post-qualification clinical experience in Ireland or the United Kingdom. Equivalent part-time clinical experience will be acceptable if gained within a period of four years.
- (c) Attendance in no less than 50 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities within the last 12 months from the closing date of entry to the examination.
- (d) Regarding the 50 CPD hours described above, a minimum of 20 verifiable and 30 general CPD hours will be needed. (The most up-to-date criteria for postgraduate activities to qualify for verifiable and/or general CPD hours to be approved by the Dental Council in Ireland can be found at www.dentalcouncil.ie)
- (e) Regarding the verifiable CPD hours described above, the following minimum hours will be required in respect of the following Core CPD areas as defined by the Dental Council in Ireland :
 - 1. Medical Emergencies 4 hours
 - 2. Radiation Protection 2 hours
 - 3. Cross Infection Control 2 hours
 - 4. Legal & Ethical Issues and Complaints Handling 2 hours
- (f) Candidates are strongly advised to undertake a wide range of verifiable CPD activities that covers the breadth of the syllabus listed in section 12 of the regulations.
- (g) Candidates with clinical experience in countries other than Ireland and the United Kingdom will need to have their experience and CPD participation approved by the Education Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry before they are eligible to enter for the examination. Enquires should be sent to facdentistry@rcsi.ie in the first instance.

5. THE AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA

Successful candidates who have complied with all the regulations will be awarded the Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

6. LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS

There is no limit on the number of attempts for this examination. However, examiners may, at their discretion, defer for two years, a candidate whose performance is such that re-examination within such a time is not considered to be in his/her best interests.

7. INFRINGEMENT OF THE REGULATIONS

The College may refuse to admit to the examination or to proceed with the examination of any candidate who infringes any of the regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination.

8. REPRESENTATIONS AND APPEALS

Candidates who wish to make representations with regard to their eligibility for the examination must address them to the Examinations Officer of the College within one month of the initial decision.

Candidates who wish to make representations with regard to the conduct of the examination must address them to the Examinations Officer of the College within one month of the examination and not in any circumstances to an examiner. Representations will then be dealt with according to the policy agreed by the College.

9. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EXAMINATION

Candidates withdrawing from an examination before the closing date must do so in writing. The entrance fee will be returned less a 20% administrative charge.

Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date or who fail to attend the examination for which he/she has been accepted will not normally be entitled to any refund of fee. No transfer of an examination fee will be permitted.

A refund on medical grounds even if there is a medical certificate is not normally allowed.

Applications for refunds on medical or compassionate grounds must be submitted to the College with any accompanying evidence within twenty-eight days of commencement of the examination.

10. SPECIAL NEEDS

A Candidate with special needs should advise the Examinations Office at the time of application of the nature of the needs and any assistance that they require. Each request should be supported by medical evidence.

11. EXEMPTIONS

There are no exemptions to any section of the diploma.

12. SYLLABUS (Appendix A)

13. THE LEARNING OUTCOMES (Appendix B)

15. Procedure for successful candidates applying to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland



1. The candidate, having passed all parts of the examination for the Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Faculty of Dentistry, shall be given a Notice subscribing his/her name to the Bye-Laws and the required declaration; that it rests with the Board of Faculty to confer upon them the Diploma; and that until the granting of such a Diploma by the Board, they are not in any circumstances, entitled to make use of the letters Dip PCDRCSI after his/her name.
2. The successful candidate's name will be added to a list referred to the Dental Register of Ireland for registration of the candidate's diploma as an additional registrable qualification.
3. When conferred by the Board of Faculty, the successful candidate shall receive a Diploma bearing the seal of the College which shall state that such Diplomat has been successful in the examination.
4. Every Diploma holder shall pay each year such annual subscription as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Faculty with the concurrence of the College Council.