

DERMATOLOGY – eligibility guidance for candidates holding MRCPCH, who do not also have full CMT competencies

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Information for candidates

Most applicants to **dermatology** will be physicians (ie undertaking core medical training [CMT] or acute care common stem [ACCS] training programmes.)

However, the specialty welcomes applications from trainees who have not undertaken a standard CMT or ACCS training programme or equivalent, but who have instead trained in **paediatrics to level 1**, and have attained the **MRCPCH** instead of MRCP(UK).

Such trainees **must still possess CMT competences which would normally have been attained after a 12-month period in CMT**, and have experience in some adult medical specialties. The document clarifies the experience and competences required of trainees from this background.

Summary of the three key eligibility requirements

All applicants from a paediatric training route must have:

- attained **MRCPCH** and **paediatric level 1 competencies** before commencing ST3 training in dermatology
- at least the same **CMT competences** that would be expected after 12 months' training in adult medicine posts, before commencing ST3 training in dermatology
- at least 24 months' experience in medical specialties (not including Foundation level experience) (of which at least 12 months must include the care of acute medical in-patients) by time of commencement of ST3 training.

or

- at least 24 months' experience in paediatrics (of which at least 4 months must have been in acute medicine, dealing with unselected medical admissions) (not including Foundation modules) by time of commencement of ST3 training

and

- a minimum of 12 months' experience in medical specialties (not including Foundation level experience) in a range of acute hospital medical specialties that admit acutely unwell medical patients and manage their immediate follow up. A maximum of 4 months in any single specialty can be counted towards this.

NB – where these requirements state 'before commencing ST3 training in dermatology', this means essentially these requirements must be met before the advertised posts commencing from date for the recruitment round to which the application is being made.

Applicants from paediatric routes

The dermatology curriculum states:

Doctors must be able to manage concurrent general medical problems in adult patients, within the context of dermatological disease, without immediate recourse to other specialists and in isolated units.

This requires at least 12 months' full-time equivalent experience in medicine at ST/SHO-level, and competence in some practical procedures.

Clinical experience

Applicants must have level 1 paediatrics training and the MRCPCH, in addition to at least 12 months' experience in a range of acute hospital medical specialties that admit acutely unwell medical patients, and manage their immediate follow-up.

This includes specialties such as cardiology, gastroenterology, respiratory medicine, geriatric medicine, renal medicine, endocrinology & diabetes, and acute medicine.

Trainees must have a minimum of **four months'** experience of managing patients on unselected medical take that involves ongoing patient management.

Emergency medicine (A&E), without an admissions unit, would not fulfil this requirement.

Other specialties that may count towards the 24 months' eligibility criterion would include palliative medicine, intensive care medicine, oncology, haematology, HIV medicine, neurology, and rehabilitation medicine.

A **maximum** of four months in any single specialty can be counted towards the 12 months eligibility rule.

Experience in a specialty post can be counted regardless of whether or not the post was part of a specialty training programme.

Procedural competences

The trainee must be competent in the following procedures prior to commencing ST3 training in dermatology:

- pleural tap and aspiration
- cardiorespiratory resuscitation
- urethral catheterisation
- nasogastric tube placement
- lumbar puncture.

Foundation competences must be maintained.

Proving achievement of competences

Trainees from a paediatric background will need to use the alternative certificate of core competence. Full completion of the competences on the certificate is not required, but must be sufficient to cover the requirements detailed on this document.

Alternative certificate of core competence

To access the certificate, plus guidance on its use, please visit the ST3 recruitment website at this link: <http://st3recruitment.org.uk/documents>

The certificate can be used by a current or previous supervisor to confirm which competences you have attained.

The competences which would be expected of a candidate from paediatric training include the **Emergency Presentations**; 11 of the **Top Presentations** and some progress in the **Common Competences** and **Other Important Presentations**.

A minimum of two pieces of satisfactory evidence are required per competence claimed. Please see the CMT ARCP Decision Aid for further information and guidance: <http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/training-certification/arcp-decision-aids>

However, please note that the competences required for paediatric applicants are not exactly the same as for CMT CT1 trainees (eg the latter should have passed MRCP(UK) Part 1).

Credit for postgraduate examinations

Please note that possession of the acceptable alternative postgraduate examinations will gain similar credit as the MRCP(UK) at the short-listing stage; provided these examinations are entered correctly into the application form.

Advice on recording this information to your application will be provided within the form itself; as well as on the ST3 recruitment website here: <http://st3recruitment.org.uk/recruitment-process/applying/completing-the-application-form>

Advice

Because of the complexity of the eligibility criteria, trainees who believe they are eligible and wish to be considered for dermatology should submit an application; detailing their experience, attaching their competence documents and answering the eligibility questions to the best of their ability.

The lead region recruiting team will assess eligibility at the long-listing stage, consulting with dermatology training programme directors as required.

It is appreciated that training pathways can vary in content and complexity; indeed, applications from alternative training routes are welcomed for this reason.

Lastly, please note that as it is only the lead region recruitment team and interviewers who can determine a candidate's eligibility when in possession of all the relevant information, it will not be

possible for the JRCPTB ST3 recruitment team to answer individual queries about eligibility in these circumstances.

General guidance on the recruitment process can be given via their helpdesk though; which can be contacted via email at st3recruitment@jrcptb.org.uk.
