

Notification of a major change to the MJDF diploma

From 30 November 2011, MJDF candidates will no longer be required to complete a portfolio of workplace-based evidence.

Upon successful completion of the Part 1 and Part 2 examinations, candidates will now be eligible for joint membership of the Diploma of Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties at The Royal College of Surgeons of England (the MJDF).

The reasons for this change

The Faculties are committed to ensuring that the MJDF assessments remain relevant to modern dentistry and they are therefore subject to continual review and evolution.

A recent review of our existing Portfolio of Evidence, and the Foundation Training Portfolio, has concluded that there is a significant degree of commonality. All clinical providers are also now required to comply with the Care Quality Commission so ensuring a safe environment and quality of patient care. In parallel with this skills originally only examined through the portfolio are increasingly being assessed, in a valid and reliable manner, within the other components of the examination.

The MJDF examination continues to mark the successful completion of Foundation Training and clinical experience at the two year period, as well as being relevant to practitioners at other stages in their careers.

In view of the above the Faculties are content that the aims of the Portfolio of Evidence will continue to be met without it being a requirement for the award of the MJDF.

The place of the portfolio in future

The portfolio approach remains a positive aid to personal development. It also anticipates the documentation of evidence and personal reflection likely to feature in future systems of revalidation for all dentists. We would like to reassure you that the Portfolio of Evidence remains highly relevant to the personal development of the individual practitioner. The dental Faculties value the educational benefit derived from this reflective tool. Either of the Faculties may in the future consider using the Portfolio of Evidence as a post MJDF marker of achievement, for example to recognise enhanced skills. As such, we strongly advise that you do not discard work you may already have put into compiling your Portfolio of Evidence. Further information will be published once these plans are developed.

Recognition for those who have completed or intend to complete the portfolio

Those who have already completed the portfolio, or intend to complete it in accordance with the requirements set out in the previous regulations, will be issued with an additional certificate recognising this achievement. Portfolios for this certification will need to be submitted by 31 August 2012.

What happens now?

The transitional period, during which candidates can still choose to complete the Portfolio of Evidence if they wish, begins now.

- All those who have completed or will complete the Portfolio of Evidence component under the requirements of the old regulations will receive a certificate to certify its completion.
In order to gain the additional certificate the cut-off date for all Portfolio of Evidence submissions is 31 August 2012.
- From November 2011, all those who have successfully passed both Part 1 and 2 components of the exam will be eligible for joint membership of the two faculties, with immediate effect. This includes candidates from past years who are yet to submit their Portfolio.
- Those candidates that have passed Parts 1 & 2 MJDF do not have to do anything at this time to gain the award.
- We will be writing to all candidates in the beginning of March 2012 who are now eligible to offer joint membership.

Further questions

Should you have any further questions, please contact the MJDF examinations team on mjdf@rcseng.ac.uk.

**Boards of the dental Faculties at the Royal College of Surgeons of England
16 November 2011**
