

## Uncoupling of the RACGP Fellowship Examination

The RACGP Fellowship Examination will be uncoupled beginning the first examination cycle in 2009.1. That is, the Examination will no longer consist of the compulsory sitting of all three segments over a three month period. See the key information below for more details.

### Benefits

Significant benefits will be derived from uncoupling including:

- Allowing candidates to receive feedback on their performance on the Applied Knowledge Test (and possibly the Key Feature Problem paper) prior to sitting the Clinical performance assessment.
- Allowing Medical Educators opportunities to provide additional educational guidance to candidates based on the doctor's performance in the attempted segments of the examination.
- Allowing candidates the flexibility to either attempt all components of the examination within a single examination cycle (as is the current situation) or to attempt components over multiple cycles.
- Giving GP Registrars the opportunity to sit the AKT earlier in their training than currently required.
- Uncoupling of the examination will aid those doctors who wish to focus entirely on a specific examination segment within any given examination cycle.
- Decreasing stress levels on those candidates who prefer to sit fewer than three segments within a single examination cycle.
- Enabling the College to continue to move towards modularizing the exam. This will allow further flexibility for candidates and greater flexibility for the College to introduce state-of-the-art assessment segments as they are developed.
- Increasing the likelihood that candidates will receive their first site preference when sitting the Clinical performance assessment.

The RACGP acknowledges that the College will receive significant additional workload due to the need to track and administer to large numbers of candidates progressing through multiple assessments. However, the RACGP believes that the benefits derived from uncoupling the exam are sufficiently important for the College to undertake and resource this greater workload.

### Key Information

- A candidate must pass the AKT to be permitted to sit the Clinical performance assessment.
- Within any given examination cycle a candidate may choose to enroll for:
  1. the AKT only,
  2. both the AKT and KFP, or
  3. the AKT, KFP and Clinical performance assessment (but will not be able to progress to the Clinical performance assessment without passing the AKT).
- For each segment a pass is defined as the standard setting score minus one standard error of measurement.

- Once a segment is passed, the pass credit may be carried for three years from the date of sitting the AKT.
- Uncoupling will begin upon commencement of the 2009.1 examination cycle. Passes in segments during the 2008.2 or earlier cycles will not be carried forward to subsequent examination cycles.
- International Medical Graduates may sit the AKT overseas if they have met the AMC requirements of verification of primary medical degree, and English language testing. If they pass the AKT, and following their assessment of clinical experience as five years or more equivalent to Australian General Practice, they will need to complete the remaining segments of the Examination within Australia within three years. Following assessment and assuming all criteria for Fellowship are met, Fellowship can then be granted.

Regional Training Provider CEOs, General Practice Registrar Association and General Practice Supervisors Association representatives, Medical Educators and RACGP affiliated International Medical Graduate representatives are invited to a meeting with the President Elect, Censor-in-Chief, Director of Educational Services and Director of Assessment in the Council Room of the RACGP College House, 1 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne at 2.00 pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Feedback on this initiative may be forwarded to the College via [examinations@racgp.org.au](mailto:examinations@racgp.org.au)

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