



## **MICGP Examination Modules and MICGP Examination Fees 2015-2020**

### **Examination Modules**

The Assessable Examination Modules for the MICGP Examinations have been set as follows for 2015-2020:

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Trainee Eligibility</b>
Core Knowledge Test (CKT)	Years 1,2,3,4
Modified Essay Question (MEQ)	Years 2,3,4
Clinical Competency Test (CCT)	Years 3,4

The ICGP recommends that trainees complete one module per year in order to maximise the chance of passing by focusing on one paper and in order to spread the cost of the examinations.

### **Delivery of the MICGP Examinations**

In order to provide context for the exam fees this section will give a brief overview on what it takes to run each module annually. The exam is set by a panel of 26 core examiners (this includes the examination committee) and 20 CCT only examiners. We also have in place an External Examiner to quality assure all our processes.

#### **CKT**

While the CKT is computer marked the process around the setting of the paper is a lengthy exercise. A substantial amount of work has to go into the paper setting annually and the correction of the returned MCQ forms is only a small part of the process.

Between 300-400 new questions are written annually by our team of examiners, linked to the curriculum and extensively piloted to ensure we are assessing at the appropriate levels and covering all assessable domains within the curriculum. Question writing takes place from July to September annually. The QA process around the setting of the CKT paper takes roughly three months from late October to early January with Examiner time commitments and full administrative support to pilot questions, audit submissions and transfer them to a question bank that allows for the production of a formatted paper that can then be computer corrected. Therefore it takes roughly 7 months to produce the CKT paper you sit in March.

## **MEQ**

In contrast to the CKT the MEQ is a quicker paper to write. Each question is written (with the associated mark scheme) by a trio of examiners and we allocate 6 sessions (or three full days) of time annually to the compilation and fine tuning of each question. This work is completed by examiners between October and January.

The main work around the MEQ comes after you have completed your papers. Each question is independently double marked by two examiners. Therefore your results are based on the averaged marks of 16 different examiners. Each examiner corrects roughly 205 questions over 6 weeks between mid-March and the end of April each year.

Extensive QA exercises take place behind the scene while marking in ongoing to ensure calibration and examiner parity remains consistent throughout. The MEQ Convenor and Examinations manager provide support 7 days a week to examiners while corrections are ongoing. Furthermore, once all papers have been marked, results go through a rigorous cross checking process. The MEQ remains a very labour intensive module.

## **CCT**

The CCT examination has represented a significant change in assessment modality for the college. For the annual exam 35 questions are written with 26 ultimately being used under exam conditions. Each CCT case takes on average 8 sessions (or 4 days) to write and pilot before it is passed to be used in a live exam. A full CCT case generally runs to roughly 20-25 typed pages and contains examiner information, actor information, candidate information, a detailed mark scheme in conjunction with all the pertinent information required to run each station.

The running of the exam over 3 days each summer (1 day of set up and two examination days) is a huge logistical exercise. For the 2015 examination it took six weeks to print, pack and check all required materials. On exam days ICGP Staff are on site from 5am – 8pm daily while examiners work from 7am – 7pm encompassing pre-exam question calibration and of course live marking. For the examination days, in addition to administrative staff we have on site in Croke Park, 46 actors, 46 Examiners, and 78 candidates daily. We use 45 consecutive rooms in order to run the three circuits

The cost of the CCT examination to trainees is relative to what is required to deliver an exam of this type and standard.

## Examination Fees

On the recommendation of the Board of the ICGP an MICGP Fees Consultation Group was established to look at the examination fees strategy for 2015-2016. This group includes representatives from all relevant stakeholder groups – College Management, GP Training, Network of GP Trainees, and the Examinations Department.

There is an immediate need to increase Examination Fees due to an increase in running costs. It must be stressed that while the MICGP Examinations are not an income generating product for the ICGP, the Examinations must continue to cover their own costs and not become a loss making area within the college. The Examinations ran at a loss of €26K in 2015 and the fee increases have been put in place to cover this deficit.

Cost reduction measures have been put in place through 2015 including a reduction in Examinations Department Staffing, re-tendering for venues, reduction in external consultants, and IT in conjunction with establishing three year SLAs with core providers to achieve lower costs.

The Finance committee of the ICGP has set the fees as follows for 2015-2020. This is subject to annual review.

	<b>If you sit exams in 2015</b>	<b>If you sit exams in 2016</b>	<b>If you sit exams in 2017</b>	<b>If you sit exams in 2018</b>	<b>If you sit exams in 2019</b>	<b>If you sit exams in 2020</b>	<b>Repeat Fees</b>
<b>CKT</b>	625	675	700	725	725	750	500
<b>MEQ</b>	625	675	700	725	725	750	500
<b>CCT</b>	1300	1300	1300	1300	1400	1400	750

Trainees may apply for a one off HSE managed grant via the Clinical Courses and Examination Refund Scheme for NCHDs. This amounts to €450 per written paper and a one off double grant of €450x2 for the CCT examination once evidence of attendance is provided.