



# Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM) Regulations, Syllabus and Information for Candidates



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## **Foreword**

The Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM) Examination Regulations apply from 01 April 2021 and cover the DLM examination. This document supersedes any previous version.

## **Notice of future amendments to the Regulations**

The DLM examination will continue to change to reflect developments in legal medicine. While every attempt has been made to ensure that this document is accurate, further changes may be implemented over time.

Candidates should refer to the [Exams page](#) of the FFLM website for the most up-to-date information, where any such changes will be detailed. In addition, wherever changes are made, notices will be issued indicating the nature of these changes. In order that candidates are fully briefed about the status of any proposed changes, they are advised to read these notices along with this publication.

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The following Regulations apply to candidates entering the DLM examination.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose of these Regulations**

These Regulations relate to the assessments undertaken by candidates sitting the DLM.

### **1.2 Date of publication**

The DLM Regulations first came into effect on 01 January 2014. They will change over time. Candidates should refer to the Examinations page of the [FFLM website](#) for the most up-to-date information, where any such changes will be detailed. In addition, wherever changes are made, notices will be issued indicating the nature of these changes. In order that candidates are fully briefed about the status of any proposed changes they are advised to read these notices along with this publication.

These revised Regulations apply from 01 April 2021 and supersede any previous version.

### **1.3 Data protection**

The personal data and test data of DLM candidates will be stored with the consent forms signed by candidates and processed by the FFLM in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. Candidates wishing to exercise their data subject rights under the Act should contact the FFLM's Administration office.

### **1.4 Test security and copyright**

Material relating to DLM assessments is confidential, protected by copyright and subject to non-disclosure requirements which candidates must observe. It must not be placed on the World Wide Web, disclosed to or discussed with any unauthorised person in any circumstances, except with the express, written permission of the FFLM. Candidates who are found to have infringed these requirements will be penalised in accordance with the guidance on misconduct in these Regulations.

## 2. Purpose of the assessment

- 2.1 The DLM is an examination and its successful completion is required of candidates who wish to obtain the Diploma of Legal Medicine.
- 2.2 A person who successfully completes the DLM is not eligible to be considered for Membership of the FFLM. However, a registered medical/dental<sup>i</sup> practitioner who obtains a distinction will be offered exemption from the Part 1 Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (MFFLM) Examination for a period of four years.

## 3. Constitutional Framework: Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine

- 3.1 The FFLM has the power under Standing Orders:
  - 3.1.1 to set professional standards for admission to membership of the FFLM; and
  - 3.1.2 to conduct examinations and award qualifications.
- 3.2 The FFLM has the power to:
  - 3.2.1 determine the terms and conditions of entry to the DLM examination. The FFLM reserves the right to refuse admission to the DLM examination.
- 3.3 To maintain the academic quality of the examination, the FFLM is responsible for:
  - 3.3.1 appointing examiners with appropriate qualifications, experience
  - 3.3.2 and ongoing training;
  - 3.3.3 producing syllabuses for appropriate parts of the examination;
  - 3.3.4 monitoring candidate performance and arranging suitable examination facilities.
- 3.4 In the exercise of these powers and responsibilities, the FFLM will comply, and ensure compliance with, the requirements of relevant legislation, such as the:
  - 3.4.1 Equality Act 2010;
  - 3.4.2 Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000;
  - 3.4.3 Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
  - 3.4.4 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act 2001;
  - 3.4.5 Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006; and
  - 3.4.6 Data Protection Acts 1984, 1998 and 2018 and GDPR
- 3.5 The FFLM Board believes that equality of opportunity is fundamental to the many and varied ways in which individuals become involved with the FFLM, either as members, members of staff and Officers, as advisors from the medical and related professions, as members of the FFLM's committees or as practitioners in training and examination candidates. Accordingly, it warmly welcomes, and actively seeks to recruit, contributors and applicants from as diverse a population as possible, regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation.

i: The Part 2 examination for Dento-Legal Advisors will not be available till March 2022 and so a registered dental practitioner who obtains a distinction in **2020** will be offered exemption from the Part 1 Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (MFFLM) Examination for a period of **three** years.

## **4. Academic Framework: The Aims and Objectives of the DLM examination**

4.1 It is the aspiration of the FFLM that the DLM examination will play a role in the overall educational experience and continuing professional development of persons with an interest in forensic and legal medicine/dentistry.

### **4.2 Aim**

The aim of the DLM examination is to demonstrate those persons who have a detailed knowledge of the specialty of forensic and legal medicine.

### **4.3 Objectives**

Successful completion of the DLM examination will provide objective demonstration of a detailed knowledge of the field of United Kingdom forensic and legal medicine/dentistry.

### **4.4 Assessment methodology**

The DLM examination includes questions that require an understanding of the legal framework that underpins medicine and dentistry in general and the practice of legal medicine/dentistry in particular.

### **4.5 The examination**

#### **4.5.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the DLM examination - which is a knowledge test - is to identify those candidates who have knowledge of the legal and regulatory infrastructure that governs clinical practice.

#### **4.5.2 Aims**

The aim of the DLM examination is to test the acquisition of a representative sample of medico-legal knowledge as specified in the published Syllabus for the examination.

For Mitigating Circumstances, Special Arrangements for Pregnancy and Disability: see General Regulations.

## **5. DLM examination**

### **6.1 The format**

6.1.1 The DLM examination is designed to assess a candidate's knowledge and understanding of legal medicine and dentistry relevant to clinical practice.

6.1.2 The DLM examination has a one-paper format. The paper consists of 150 single best answer (SBA) questions. Candidates have three hours to complete it. Candidates are tested on a wide range of topics in Forensic and Legal Medicine as set out in the published Syllabus – Schedule 1.

6.1.3 The examination may include pre-test questions (trial questions that are used for research purposes only). A small number of pre-test questions may appear in any paper. Responses to them do not count towards a candidate's final score.

6.1.4 Drugs are normally referred to by their recommended International Non-proprietary Names (INN) rather than by their trade names.

- 6.1.5 Biochemical and other measurements are expressed in SI units and normal or reference ranges are provided.
- 6.1.6 The DLM examination is criterion referenced. Before the examination, the difficulty of each question is considered by the FFLM Chief Examiner's Committee. The standard setters assess the difficulty of the questions against the level of knowledge expected of candidates using a procedure known as the modified Angoff method. All judgements by all standard setters on all questions are then analysed and a criterion-referenced pass mark is established. In order for wild fluctuations in the pass rate to be avoided, there are limits outside which it has been decided the pass rate may not fall. As a result of the standard setting and the restrictions on pass rates, the pass mark and pass rate can vary slightly from one examination to the next.
- 6.1.7 The marking system for the DLM examination is as follows:
  - 6.1.7.1 one mark is awarded for a correct answer;
  - 6.1.7.2 no mark is awarded or deducted for an incorrect answer;
  - 6.1.7.3 no mark is awarded or deducted if a question is left unanswered;
  - 6.1.7.4 no mark is awarded if more than one response is recorded or if the answer is not sufficiently clear; and
  - 6.1.7.5 no mark is awarded for any answer that the scanner queries as insufficiently erased or smudged.

In these circumstances the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine does not consider it is appropriate to interpret a candidate's intentions.

- 6.1.8 The final mark for each candidate is the mark obtained in the examination paper expressed as a percentage.

## 6.2 How to complete the DLM examination answer sheets (N.B. Where possible, the DLM examination will now be held online. See 6.2.3)

- 6.2.1 Answer sheets will be printed to include candidate numbers. Candidates must ensure that their candidate number matches the one issued at the time of application.
- 6.2.2 The answer sheets for the DLM examination are machine readable, like [this](#). Candidates should indicate the single correct answer in accordance with the instructions provided.  
For further details about completing the answer sheet: see the General Regulations.
- 6.2.3 Online answer sheets should be similarly filled in.

## 6.3 Entry requirements

- 6.3.1 There are no restrictions on who may sit the DLM Examination. The DLM may attract a wide variety of people, including:

- |     |                        |          |     |                                  |
|-----|------------------------|----------|-----|----------------------------------|
| (a) | Emergency Clinicians   | Medicine | (g) | Dental complementary professions |
| (b) | Academics              |          | (h) | Dento-legal Advisers             |
| (c) | Barristers             |          | (i) | Expert witnesses                 |
| (d) | Claims handlers        |          | (j) | Forensic Nurses                  |
| (e) | Clinical risk managers |          | (k) | Forensic Odontologists           |
|     |                        |          | (l) | Forensic Paramedics              |
|     |                        |          | (m) | Forensic Pathologists            |
| (f) | Coroners               |          | (n) | Forensic Physicians              |

(o)	Forensic Psychiatrists	(y)	Medical Reviewers
(p)	GMC performance assessors	(z)	Medico-legal Advisers
(q)	GPs and GDPs	(aa)	Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) panellists (both medical and lay)
(r)	Gynaecologists and Obstetricians	(bb)	Paediatricians
(s)	Judges	(cc)	Paralegal executives
(t)	Legal file handlers	(dd)	Forensic Physicians
(u)	LMC and LDC Secretaries	(ee)	Solicitors
(v)	Medical and nursing managers	(ff)	Surgeons
(w)	Medical and dental NHS Advisors	(gg)	Tribunal doctors
(x)	Medical Examiners	(hh)	Consultants & Specialty trainees in any discipline including psychiatry

6.3.2 Those candidates who are registered with a regulatory body will have to sign a Declaration of Faith that they are in good standing with their regulatory body or bodies. If the applicant believes they may have a difficulty in this respect, then they should discuss the matter in confidence with the FFLM Registrar in advance so that they may make an informed decision on whether or not to proceed with their application at that time.

6.4 Exemptions: there are no exemptions.

6.5 How to enter the DLM examination

6.5.1 Candidates can apply for the DLM examination by completing and submitting the application form available on the [FFLM website](#) and paying the appropriate fee.

6.5.2 It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that their application is completed by the required closing date. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted unless this was caused by exceptional circumstances.

6.5.3 Paper applications will **not** be accepted.

6.5.4 It is intended whenever possible to hold the DLM exam online. If a candidate requires a visa to sit an examination in the UK, it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the visa application is made in sufficient time before the examination date for which it has been sought. However, currently the exam will be held online and candidates will not have to come to the UK to sit the exam.

6.5.5 Please let us know, when you apply, that you need examination entry confirmation and we will send you a formal letter, which can be used to apply for your visa.

6.5.6 It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they can meet the requirements concerning entry to the UK for attendance at the DLM examination. This is a matter over which the FFLM has no control and can accept no responsibility. We therefore ask each candidate to consider carefully whether there is a possibility of having their visa application rejected or not processed in time as we will not refund fees due to visa refusals.



## 6.6 Fees

Details of fees, which are subject to annual revision, dates and opening and closing dates for applications are available on the Exams page of the [FFLM website](#).

## 6.7 Applying for the exam

Please apply for the exam using the link provided on the Exams page of the [FFLM website](#).

## 6.8 Payments

6.8.1 The payment method is online, using the link provided in the Exams page of the FFLM website. Alternative methods are also possible. Please email [forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk](mailto:forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk) for details.

6.8.2 A candidate's application is only processed once his/her complete application form and payment are received.

For Names, Withdrawal from the Examination and Refund of fees: see General Regulations.

## 6.9 Centres

6.9.1 It is intended going forward to hold the examination online whenever possible.

## 6.10 Number of attempts

Candidates can apply and sit the DLM examination as many times as required.

# 6. After the DLM examination

## Review of the examination

7.1 Results are released when the Chief Examiner and the Academic Dean of the FFLM are satisfied that the examination was conducted appropriately and in accordance with the procedures of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine.

7.2 The Chief Examiner's Committee considers each question in the DLM prior to its appearance in the examination and reviews the question's performance after every examination, as well as reviewing the examination as a whole. In addition to the final scores obtained by the candidates, the Chief Examiner's Committee will also note the mean score for the examination and the mean scores for, and the discriminatory power of, the questions that comprise each paper. A detailed analysis of the responses to each item (including a separate index of discrimination for every item), and a coefficient indicating the internal reliability of the examination as a whole, are also considered by the Committee. In the light of these analyses, the FFLM Chief Examiner's Committee may make modifications to the questions and answers that it deems desirable to ensure that the quality of the examination is maintained.

## 7.3 Results

7.3.1 Results will normally be published on the website within four weeks of the date of the examination. Confirmation and details of results will be emailed within a further four weeks. Results cannot be collected from FFLM or given over the telephone

or sent by post.

7.3.2 The FFLM candidate numbers and results of all candidates, both passes and fails, will be published in the Exams page of the FFLM website ([www.fflm.ac.uk/exams/dlm](http://www.fflm.ac.uk/exams/dlm)). Candidates will not be identified by name. Candidates are advised to take careful note of their candidate number upon receipt of their admission document.

7.3.3 Candidates should notify the FFLM of any change of email address as soon as possible. Please note that **personal** email addresses, rather than work ones, are preferred, as these change less often.

#### 7.4 Pass result

Candidates passing the DLM examination will be entitled to use the postnominal DLM. If the candidate subsequently passes the membership examination, MFFLM supersedes DLM and both postnominals should not be used. Candidates who pass the DLM with Distinction but are not eligible to take Part 2 and apply for Membership, are entitled to use the postnominal AFFLM(DLM), if they become, and whilst they are, Associate or Affiliate members of the Faculty. AFFLM(DLM) supersedes DLM and both postnominals should not be used.

#### 7.5 Fail result

A candidate not achieving the pass mark in the DLM examination will be deemed to have failed the examination.

#### 7.6 Queries on results

7.6.1 Candidates may request that their answer sheets are re-marked. There is a charge of £160.00 per paper for this service. This charge will be refunded if an error is identified.

7.6.2 Requests for the re-marking of answer sheets should be addressed in writing to the Chief Examiner, via [forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk](mailto:forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk), and must be received within six weeks of the publication of results.

7.6.3 Candidates are reminded that their answer sheets are held for one year only.

#### 7.7 Award of Distinction

The mark to be awarded to obtain a Distinction will be set by the modified Angoff method and will allow a registered medical/dental practitioner exemption from the MFFLM Part 1 examination for a period of four years. This mark is the pass mark for that examination session's MFFLM Part 1 examination.

### 7. **Attendance at, and conduct during, the DLM examinations both in person and online: see the General Regulations**

#### 7.1 Monitoring candidate behaviour

Candidates are advised that the DLM Chief Examiner's Committee may employ various systems to identify those candidates who attempt to copy, collude or perform some other act that may be regarded as academic misconduct in DLM examinations. For further details of this process see the General Regulations

#### 7.2 Examination Rules and Regulations: see the General Regulations

## 9. Award of the DLM Qualification

- 9.1 Successful candidates will receive an email confirming that they passed the DLM examination. Subsequently they will be contacted about membership opportunities and will be offered the choice to either receive their Diploma Certificate by email or to have the Diploma formally presented at the next FFLM Annual General meeting, which normally takes place in May each year.
- 9.2 The full name of each successful candidate will appear on the list of DLM diplomates on the FFLM website ([www.fflm.ac.uk](http://www.fflm.ac.uk)), accessible by members of the general public.
- 9.3 The names will appear in alphabetical order of surname. The information will be strictly limited to the full name of the diplomate and the date the diploma was awarded.
- 9.4 Appeals: an Appeal to the FFLM is open to a candidate who is not satisfied with the decision of their exam result. For further details, see the General Regulations
- 9.5 Complaints: complaints should be made in writing and addressed to the Chief Examiner at [forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk](mailto:forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk). Complainants should expect a written acknowledgement from the Chief Examiner within 21 days. For further details, see the General Regulations.
- 9.6 Academic misconduct: Information in respect of academic misconduct may be obtained by contacting the Academic Dean, FFLM Administration Office. For further details, see the General Regulations

## 10. Language Requirements

- 10.1 The DLM examination is conducted in English.
- 10.2 The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine advises candidates that in order to be sufficiently prepared to sit the DLM examination, their English language ability should be equivalent to IELTS Level 7 in each module. However, candidates do not need to have taken IELTS, the assessment of the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB): <https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/plab> or any other language examination, to sit the DLM examination.
- 10.3 The DLM cannot be used as demonstrating competency in the English language, for which PLAB is necessary before doctors can obtain Limited Registration with the GMC. Full details are available from:

PLAB Test Section  
General Medical Council  
Regent's Place  
350 Euston Road  
London, NW1 3JN

Email: [registrationhelp@gmc-uk.org](mailto:registrationhelp@gmc-uk.org)  
Tel: +44(0)845 357 3456

For further information please refer to the GMC website ([www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)).

## 11. Preparation for the DLM examination

- 11.1 The FFLM recommend that candidates prepare for the examination by gaining clinical experience in forensic and legal medicine/dentistry and by studying up-to-date postgraduate clinical textbooks and current medical/dental journals.
- 11.2 There is an e-learning course, which is regularly reviewed and updated, which covers most of the syllabus of the exam. Further details can be found on the FFLM website ([www.fflm.ac.uk/e-learning](http://www.fflm.ac.uk/e-learning)).
- 11.3 There is a published syllabus for the DLM examination: see Schedule 1.
- 11.4 A reading list is available from the FFLM website: [www.fflm.ac.uk/exams/dlm](http://www.fflm.ac.uk/exams/dlm)
- 11.5 Sample SBAs, are available on the FFLM website: [www.fflm.ac.uk/exams/dlm](http://www.fflm.ac.uk/exams/dlm)
- 11.6 The FFLM may be able to provide lists of recommended FFLM courses in person and webinars. The details of most courses are advertised and contained in the Exams page of the faculty website.

# SCHEDULE 1

## Syllabus for DLM Examination

### Foreword

This syllabus outlines the areas of knowledge and understanding<sup>i</sup> covered in the DLM Part 1 examination.

The Part 1 examination is common to all MFFLM candidates – whether Forensic Physicians in General Forensic Medicine, Sexual Offence Medicine or Medico-Legal Medicine – and the Chief Examiner’s Committee believe it is important that all candidates have a thorough understanding of medical law and ethics.

The Part 1 examination aims to encourage candidates to read widely on medico-legal and ethical issues outwith their day-to-day practice as a basis for further professional development and later specialisation.

The syllabus aims to describe broadly the areas of knowledge expected of candidates to pass the examination: it is not to be taken as exhaustive or inclusive; not every area of the syllabus will be tested at each examination diet and the absence of a topic does not guarantee that it will not be included in the examination paper. Candidates can expect the majority of questions to relate to the broad areas specified.

The examination covers all jurisdictions within the UK. The syllabus will highlight this in some of the areas where the differences between jurisdictions are of particular importance, but candidates should be aware that this principle applies throughout the DLM examination.

### 1. STRUCTURE OF HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN THE UK

Candidates should have an understanding of the structure and organisation of healthcare in the UK including:

- 1.1. Structure of the NHS and the differences due to devolved government in the 4 kingdoms
- 1.2. Independent status of performer and private GPs, GMS GPs, PMS GPs
- 1.3. NHS Dental and Medical Providers
- 1.4. GP and GDP Performer's Lists;
- 1.5. Private medical and dental practice
- 1.6. NHS indemnity and other indemnity/insurance arrangements;
- 1.7. Clinical governance;
- 1.8. Issues of access to healthcare; and
- 1.9. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the Scottish Medicines Consortium.

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<sup>i</sup> The sections refer to either:

- understanding of a subject
- A “basic” knowledge and understanding of a subject or
- A “detailed” knowledge and understanding of a subject

This is intended as a guide to candidates with respect to the level at which the subjects are likely to be examined. Thus, for example, only a basic knowledge and understanding is required of “philosophical medical ethics”, whereas a detailed knowledge and understanding of “Consent” is required

## **2. REGULATION OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

2.1. The General Medical Council, the General Dental Council, the Health and Care Professions Council, The Nursing & Midwifery Council and others.

2.1.1. Candidates should have an understanding of the structure and functions of the regulatory bodies, including:

- (a) Composition; and
- (b) Fitness to practice procedures.

2.1.2. Candidates should have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the ethical guidance published by the regulatory bodies (including the GMC's "Good Medical Practice" and all supporting ethical guidance – see also "Medical Ethics in Practice" and similar GDC Dental guidance).

## **3. SOURCES OF LAW AND LEGAL SYSTEMS**

Candidates should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the sources of law in the UK and of the legal systems of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Examples of question topics might include:

- 3.1. the structure and functions of the main courts in the jurisdictions;
- 3.2. the legislative process;
- 3.3. the effect of judicial precedent/case law;
- 3.4. European Union law; and
- 3.5. Human Rights legislation.

## **4. CRIMINAL LAW**

Candidates should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of the criminal law in the UK jurisdictions, particularly in relation to those areas where this may be relevant to medical practice. Examples of question topics might include:

- 4.1. police powers
- 4.2. principles of the law of gross negligence manslaughter, including corporate manslaughter and
- 4.3. sexual offences
- 4.4. road traffic legislation
- 4.5. drug offences
- 4.6. assault and offences against the person.

## **5. CIVIL LAW**

Candidates should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of the civil law in the UK jurisdictions and a more detailed knowledge and understanding of the law relating to medical negligence and medical injuries. Examples of question topics might include:

- 5.1. duty of care in the law of negligence;
- 5.2. tests for medical/dental negligence;
- 5.3. failure to warn of risks;
- 5.4. actions for assault or trespass to the person;
- 5.5. principles of causation;
- 5.6. civil procedure; and
- 5.7. damages

## **6. PHILOSOPHICAL MEDICAL/DENTAL ETHICS**

Candidates should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the main philosophical approaches to medical ethics including:

- 6.1. utilitarianism;
- 6.2. deontological systems; and
- 6.3. principle-based systems and of the core principles to be found in most principle-based systems of medical ethics:
  - beneficence;
  - non-maleficence;
  - respect for autonomy; and
  - justice.

## **7. MEDICAL ETHICS IN PRACTICE**

Candidates should have an understanding of the regulatory bodies' ethical guidance including the GMC's Good Medical Practice. Examples of question topics might include:

- 7.1. GMC and NMC probity requirements;
- 7.2. sharing information with and working with colleagues; and
- 7.3. responding to concerns about colleagues.

## **8. CONSENT <sup>ii</sup>**

Candidates should have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the law and ethics relating to consent for medical treatment including:

- 8.1. Regulatory bodies' and NHS guidance;
- 8.2. requirements for consent to be valid;
- 8.3. forms of consent; and
- 8.4. consent and mentally incapacitated adults (including consent given by others e.g. welfare attorneys).

## **9. CONFIDENTIALITY <sup>iii</sup>**

Candidates should have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the law and ethics governing the duty of confidentiality, including:

- 9.1. legal basis;
- 9.2. GMC and NMC guidance;
- 9.3. disclosures required by law;
- 9.4. disclosures in the public interest;
- 9.5. data protection legislation;
- 9.6. patients' rights of access to health records and medical reports;
- 9.7. confidentiality and mentally incapacitated adults; and
- 9.8. confidentiality after death.

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<sup>ii</sup> Note that GMC consent and confidentiality in children is included in "Protecting Children and Young People" and "0 – 18 years: guidance for all doctors"

## **10. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

- 10.1. Candidates should have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the law of consent as it applies to children and young people including:
- 10.1.1. differences between the UK jurisdictions;
  - 10.1.2. competence to consent;
  - 10.1.3. refusal of treatment by children and/or parents;
  - 10.1.4. parental responsibility;
  - 10.1.5. 16 –18 year olds; and
  - 10.1.6. GMC and NMC guidance.
- 10.2. Candidates should have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the legal and ethical requirements of confidentiality in relation to young people. Examples of question topics might include:
- 10.2.1. parental requests for information;
  - 10.2.2. disclosure in the public interest; and
  - 10.2.3. requests for information about children and young people under data protection legislation.
- 10.3. Candidates should have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the legal and ethical principles involved in child safeguarding issues. Topics for questions might include:
- 10.3.1. relevant legislation and government guidance;
  - 10.3.2. GMC, GDC and NMC guidance;
  - 10.3.3. sources of advice and assistance;
  - 10.3.4. role of the social work department;
  - 10.3.5. confidentiality; and
  - 10.3.6. child safeguarding procedures.

## **11. DEATH AND DYING**

Candidates should have an understanding of the legal and ethical issues surrounding death including:

- 11.1. definition of death;
- 11.2. death certification and cremation;
- 11.3. the role of the coroner and the structure and function of inquests
- 11.4. Fatal Accident Inquiries in Scotland;
- 11.5. withholding and withdrawing life prolonging treatment;
- 11.6. patient refusal of life-prolonging treatment;
- 11.7. advance directives;
- 11.8. euthanasia and assisted suicide;
- 11.9. organ donation; and
- 11.10. retention of organs and tissue
- 11.11. medical examiners and medical reviewers (Scotland)

## **12. MENTAL HEALTH LAW**

Candidates should have an understanding of the applicable mental health law (including mental capacity and related legislation) and Codes of Practice in the UK jurisdictions. Examples of question topics might include:

- 12.1. detention under the mental health acts;



- 12.2. detention of mentally incapacitated adults;
- 12.3. community treatment orders;
- 12.4. treatment without consent; and
- 12.5. vulnerable adults.

### **13. PRESCRIBING**

Candidates should have an understanding of the medico-legal issues relating to prescribing medicines. Examples of question topics might include:

- 13.1. GMC and NMC guidance on prescribing;
- 13.2. medico-legal issues involved in prescribing controlled drugs (including regulatory requirements);
- 13.3. medico-legal issues involved in unlicensed and off label prescribing.

### **14. REPORT WRITING AND GIVING EVIDENCE**

- 14.1 Rules of evidence
- 14.2 The Professional and the Expert Witness
- 14.3 Criminal and Civil Procedures Rules