

## **Announcement to Candidates**

**August 2013**

### **End date of the Intercollegiate MRCS Part B (oral, clinical, communication skills) Examination (Part B (OCC)) held Overseas - January 2011 Regulations (Revised February 2013)**

1. The Intercollegiate MRCS Part B (OCC) examination conducted under these MRCS Regulations will cease to be offered after 31 January 2016.
2. Candidates who complete the MRCS under these Regulations will be subject to the attempt limitations contained within them and the end date information contained in this announcement.
3. Candidates should note the following:
  - 3.1 Candidates may transfer to the MRCS Part B (OSCE) at any time prior to the Part B (OCC) end date of 31 January 2016, subject to the following:
    - i. They have made no more than 3 attempts at the Part B (OCC);
    - ii. They meet the attempt limitations contained in the Harmonisation of Regulations – Announcement to Candidates dated July 2012.
  - 3.2 Candidates, who do not pass all parts of the Part B (OCC) and have taken 4 or more attempts by 31 January 2016, will have no further opportunity to sit the MRCS examination and will be deemed ineligible to reapply.
4. The MRCS Part A examination will continue to be offered under the Intercollegiate Membership Examination of the Royal Surgical Colleges of Great Britain and in Ireland - September 2008 Regulations (Revised September 2012).
5. Candidates who pass the Part A examination under the January 2011 Regulations (Revised February 2013) **and** have not achieved a pass in any component of the Part B (OCC) examination by 31 January 2016 will be required to progress under the September 2008 Regulations (Revised September 2012) and take the Intercollegiate MRCS Part B (OSCE).

#### **Overarching principle of entry into the MRCS**

Candidates who become time-expired under the June 2006 Regulations (Revised April 2009), or who become attempt-expired under the September 2008 Regulations (Revised September 2012) or the January 2011 Regulations (Revised February 2013), are not permitted to apply for any component/part of the MRCS examination under any set of regulations.