

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO  
THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
(AMENDMENT) ORDER OF COUNCIL 2012**

**No. 344**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
2. **Purpose of the Instrument**
  - 2.1 This Order amends the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Order of Council 2010 (SI 2010/473) which sets out the medical specialities recognised by the United Kingdom in the Schedule to that Order, together with the minimum training period required for those specialities, where applicable. This Order amends that Schedule to add four new specialities, change the name of two specialities and specify the minimum training period for two other specialities.
3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**
  - 3.1 None
4. **Legislative Context**
  - 4.1 This Order amends the Schedule in the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Order of Council 2010 (S.I. 2010/473). It adds Vascular Surgery, Diagnostic Neuropathology, Forensic Histopathology, and Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology to the list of medical specialities set out in the Schedule, which are recognised in the United Kingdom. It also changes the names of two listed specialties. Audiological Medicine is to be known as Audio Vestibular Medicine; and Psychotherapy as Medical Psychotherapy.
  - 4.2 This Order also amends the Schedule by including an entry for Histopathology (which requires a minimum training period of four years) in accordance with Annex V, point 5.1.3 of Directive 2005/36 EC. Annex V, point 5.1.3 lists the specialities which are automatically recognised between the Member States. The Schedule includes those specialities listed in Annex V, point 5.1.3 for the United Kingdom.
  - 4.3 This Order also specifies a minimum training period of five years for medical oncology; and four years for clinical genetics.
5. **Territorial Extent and Application**
  - 5.1 This instrument applies to all of the United Kingdom.

## 6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

## 7. Policy background

### *What is being done and why*

7.1 In accordance with the Department of Health's protocol (a) for recognising new medical specialities, applications for the recognition of Vascular Surgery, Diagnostic Neuropathology, Forensic Histopathology, and Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology were submitted by the relevant medical Royal College or Faculty. These applications were initially scrutinised by the Department of Health (DH) and the General Medical Council (GMC) to ensure there was evidence for need for the proposed new speciality and to test the basic educational framework against the legal training. The second stage (where appropriate) develops the proposal in more detail and is subject to consultation. The applications have been approved by the four UK Health Departments (UKHDs) and the GMC.

7.2 In relation to the specialty of Vascular Surgery, the application was submitted by the Vascular Society with the support of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Traditionally the provision of vascular services has been performed by general surgeons but general surgery has become fragmented and consultants without specialist vascular training are no longer able to offer up-to-date vascular surgery. The new speciality will provide direct specialist training in vascular surgery.

7.3 In relation to the specialties in Diagnostic Neuropathology, Forensic Histopathology, and Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology, applications were submitted by the Royal College of Pathologists with support from a range of other organisations (b) on the basis that there was a clear and urgent need for specialist practitioners in these areas. Currently, as a pre-requisite for training in one of these areas, an individual has to complete general training in histopathology, some of which is not always necessary for working in these areas. The new specialties will provide direct specialist training in Diagnostic Neuropathology, Forensic Histopathology and Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology.

7.4 The change of name from Audiological Medicine to Audio Vestibular Medicine is necessary to distinguish and promote clarity of the specialty from other non-medical staff such as audiologists. In addition specialist training

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**a** Developing Specialities in Medicine: Protocol for handling applications for new CCT specialities, new sub-specialities and decommissioning specialities which are no longer needed.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_107622](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107622)

**b** The British Neuropathological Society and the Joint Neurosciences Council.

covers both audiological and vestibular medicine, which the current title does not reflect.

7.5 The change of name from Psychotherapy to Medical Psychotherapy is necessary to minimise confusion between the roles of these specialists. It would also reflect changes that have already taken place in the work of these specialists as well as recent revisions of the training curriculum.

## **8. Consultation Outcome**

8.1 The applications succeeded at the initial scrutiny stage, and in accordance with the agreed protocol for developing and decommissioning specialties in medicine, the Department of Health consulted the other UK Health Departments and other stakeholders including the GMC who have the legal responsibility for the regulation of training, leading to the award of the Certificate of Completion of Training on the changes in relation to the four new medical specialties and the change of names.

8.2 Consultations for Vascular Surgery commencing on 13 January 2010 and Diagnostic Neuropathology commencing on 1 November 2010 were carried out, for a period of three months. A limited consultation for Forensic Histopathology, and Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology was carried out commencing on 1 September 2011 as the arguments for recognition were the same as those advanced for Diagnostic Neuropathology.

8.3 An evaluation of the responses was then conducted after the completion of each consultation. After discussion and reconsideration of some issues by the applicants, all proposed new specialties were agreed by the four UK Health Departments. All parties were satisfied that there was evidence of a service need for the proposed new specialties. There is no formal protocol for changing the name of existing specialties but a limited consultation within the four UKHDs and GMC was undertaken and all requested name changes were unanimously agreed.

8.4 The response to the consultation on Vascular Surgery raised a number of issues, including some elements of the proposed training which other bodies such as the Royal College of Radiologists and the British Society of Interventional Radiology thought might not be deliverable. These issues were addressed by the Vascular Society in a revised application. In response, further support for the application was received from the Royal College of Radiologists and the British Society of Interventional Radiology to the extent that the latter stated “If the revised application is successful the new training pathways for Vascular Surgery combined with those in Interventional Radiology will allow the United Kingdom to be at the forefront of provision of the full spectrum of care for patients with vascular pathologies.” The application has now been approved by the four UK Health Departments and the General Medical Council.

8.5 No serious objections were raised as a result of the consultation on Diagnostic Neuropathology, Forensic Histopathology, and Paediatric and

Perinatal Pathology. The applications were widely supported by medical professionals and also supported by the General Medical Council.

8.6 The two changes of name of specialties requested; Audiological Medicine to Audio vestibular Medicine, and Psychotherapy to Medical Psychotherapy, have been unanimously supported.

## **9. Guidance**

9.1 Notification of the changes will be targeted at potential applicants to the new specialties, the relevant Royal Colleges, Deaneries, and NHS Employers.

## **10. Impact**

10.1 There is no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

10.2 There is no impact on the public sector. Curricula and training programmes will be developed by the Royal Colleges and the General Medical Council which are not publicly funded bodies. There will be no new posts; the posts which will apply to these new specialties would exist anyway.

10.3 An impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

## **11. Regulating small business**

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

12.1 The aim is to recruit to training posts in Vascular Surgery in August 2012. Recruitment to training posts in the other new specialties is not expected to commence until 2013. Monitoring recruitment to the new specialties will form part of existing and future workforce planning structures.

## **13. Contact**

13.1 David Boyce at the Department of Health (Tel: 0113 2545697 or e-mail david.boyce@dh.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.