

PHEMTA News Letter

May 2016 Edition

Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Trainees' Association (PHEMTA) May 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the May PHEMTA Newsletter. Items covered in this month's edition:

1. RCSEd Examinations – July 2016
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1. RCSEd Examinations – NSA 1 & 2 (DipIMC / FIMC), July 2016

There are a large number of you sitting either NSA 1 or NSA 2 in July 2016. The following is some important information from the Assessments Representative, Jon Birks.

In early February 2016, the PHEMTA Committee was consulted about several changes proposed by the Examinations Committee at RCS Ed. Proposed changes included removal of projected material from both NSA 1 and 2 examinations and a likely move to a 3-day sitting for NSA 2. The move to 3 days is intended to reduce the overall cost of exams to the RCS Ed and therefore prevent rises in candidate fees.

The long-term plan is to de-couple the written component of the examination which in the future will be held in a 'local' test centre (ie. somewhere within your region), probably a few weeks before the practical component. It is therefore envisaged that this will avoid the extra night's accommodation in Edinburgh and will reduce the number of examiners required which presents a significant cost for the college, which is therefore reflected in the fees. It will hopefully also help with the increasing complexities of multiple OSPE/simulation circuits as candidate numbers increase.

We discussed these in the PHEMTA Committee meeting on the 15th February. None of the committee members could see a problem with removing the projected material element (in fact it was met with joy from some quarters from those that have sat through it!). In fact most of the complaints made about both examinations to Jon (Assessment's Rep) during his term, have been in relation to the projected material element. He also sought assurance from Rod Mackenzie in his role as Head of Examinations that this potential removal had been thoroughly looked at by the psychometricians at the college (very clever people that do lots of complex calculations to ensure the exam is 'fair' and does not discriminate) and we received assurances that they were satisfied that any removal of the projected material would keep the examination 'fair'.

We understood the reasons for the proposed de-coupling of the written component and it was quite clear to us the college and the examinations committee is committed to keeping costs down for applicants as far

as possible. We therefore did not raise any specific concerns regarding the future structure of the examination if it could be delivered as proposed.

However, we did express concern that there would be a short term increase in costs (primarily related to accommodation) to candidates in the intervening period, and requested every possible option for keeping the costs the same/minimal rise for this period could be explored. We also requested that the time period between changing to 3 days and decoupling the written should be kept as short as possible to minimise the number of candidates potentially affected. In addition we emphasised that any change to the Exam Regulations must be made clear and publicised well in advance.

In February and March, the PHEMTA newsletters mentioned that changes to the exam regulations were expected and we advised you to consult them online.

We have been made aware (via trainees!) that these changes have been adopted for the July diet of examinations. If you have not done so already we strongly advise you to read the updated regulations:

[Diploma in Immediate Medical Care](#)
[Fellowship in Immediate Medical Care](#)

We would like to hear your views so they can be fed back to the Examinations Committee at the RCSEd (eg. additional costs incurred, having to change travel arrangements, do you think that the shorter exam days could lead to reduced fatigue, have you been given enough notice of the changes etc.). Please send all comments to the PHEMTA Assessments representative, Jon Birks.

He will share them with the Examinations Committee in July and will obviously keep all comments totally anonymous.

If you are sitting either examination in July we wish you the very best of luck from the whole PHEMTA Committee!

2. FPHC & RCSEd examinations videos

A reminder that the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care in partnership with RCSEd have published a series of videos and a podcast targeted at candidates sitting both NSA 1 (DipIMC) and NSA 2 (FIMC). These are designed to 'de-mystify' the process and have been developed following feedback and support from PHEMTA.

You can find them [here](#).

3. PHEMTA elections 2016

In the summer of 2016, the entire PHEMTA Committee will come to the end of their tenures as the inaugural Committee. We are in discussions with the RCSEd about exactly how and when elections will occur, but they will be after 1st August to include those new to PHEM for the 2016/17 year.

The Committee consists of 5 people currently. Representatives for the Curriculum and Training Committees can be current or completed PHEM trainees. The Assessments Committee requires a trainee who has completed PHEM (ie. Post- FIMC). The Chairman and Vice Chairman can be current or completed trainees.

We will send you more information about this in the coming months, but if you think you may be interested in standing for election, please get in touch with us to find out more information. Email the current Chairman, Scott Grier – phemta@rcsed.net

4. PHEMTA Survey, summer 2016

As you are all aware, PHEMTA run a bi-annual survey of all current PHEM trainees. This survey has been hugely influential in guiding IBTPHEM and providing essential evidence of how training is going to them. A large number of things have changed as a result of your feedback and that of your predecessors.

If there is something in particular that you feel should be asked, please let us know – email ScottGrier@gmail.com by the middle of June for consideration of inclusion in the survey in early August.

5. TAP paperwork & guidance

This is another reminder!

There are a large number of you completing PHEM this summer. Earlier in the year, the Training Committee and PHEMTA released guidance on the Training Assessment Panel which can be found along with the TAP documents [here](#).

If you have not already read this, we urge you to do so. Paperwork preparation and submission for the TAP takes a reasonably large amount of time and you can mitigate this by being organised now.

The TAP Guidance document does not specify a particular folder structure for your Dropbox/Google Drive/iCloud submission. PHEMTA have a blank set of folders which we can share with anyone who feels that would be beneficial.

If you have any questions about the process, paperwork, organisation of the folder etc., please consult your TPDs in the first instance. Please contact PHEMTA (phemta@rcsed.net) if you need further advice.

6. Wellbeing

This is the third month we are including the information below. Once we have a website up and running, you will be able to find it online.

PHEM is a challenging subspecialty. It exposes you to scenes, patients and events that few medical colleagues ever have to deal with and, at times, can be extremely mentally, emotionally and psychologically challenging.

We would like to remind you how to seek guidance, advice and help should you need it.

- Your Educational Supervisor and Training Programme Director have a responsibility for your wellbeing and are often the best initial people to contact if you have problems.
- The Ambulance Service you work in will have a wellbeing and psychological support programme. Most have adopted the Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) process, which is excellent and can lead to access of other services if required.
- The charity MIND are running a Blue Light campaign which focuses on the mental health of people who work in the emergency services. Their website has lots of advice and resources <http://www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/campaigns/bluelight>.



7. Upcoming Events

- 7th June Wales PHEM Training Day
 Contact Dr John Glen from EMRTS for more information:
- 26th Jan 2017 PHEM Obstetrics & Neonatal Simulation Day
 Early date for your diaries. This is an excellent day that covers most of the obstetric and neonatal competencies in the curriculum. More details as I get them.
- 6th – 12th Aug PHEM Induction Course at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

PHEMTA is here for you – please get in touch if we can help in any way.



Scott Grier
PHEMTA Chairman *on behalf of the PHEMTA Committee*

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