Diploma in Retrieval and Transfer Medicine

Open to doctors, nurses and paramedics registered in either the UK or the equivalent international governing body, with relevant retrieval experience.

Closing date: 9 September 2016
A detailed syllabus, candidate guide and information on educational resources are available at www.rcsed.ac.uk.
Exam date: 10-11 November 2016

For more information contact us by phone 0131 527 1600 or email rtm.exams@rcsed.ac.uk
Retrieval is the deployment of a critical care team to a seriously ill or injured patient’s location to undertake resuscitation and stabilisation prior to safe transfer to definitive care.

- Primary retrieval – from scene of incident
- Secondary retrieval – from healthcare facility with basic facilities and skills
- Tertiary retrieval – from a secondary care facility to another centre for tertiary care
- Quaternary retrieval – international repatriation

The skill set required for all types of retrieval is very similar and many clinicians will undertake all categories of retrieval within single services. Candidates for the Diploma in Retrieval and Transfer Medicine will be expected to be competent in the assessment, management, triage and transfer of adult patients with a range of illnesses and injuries. A knowledge and understanding of a variety of land and air transport platforms, and of retrieval co-ordination, will be expected. Clinical knowledge and skills will both be assessed. When working in demanding, diverse and time-critical situations with a variety of unfamiliar team members, excellent communication and team resource management skills are vital for a retrieval practitioner. Assessment of these non-technical skills will also form an essential part of the examination process. An extensive syllabus covers all domains of this examination against which individual examination diets are blueprinted, ensuring that the whole breadth of the subject matter is represented in the diploma.

The examination focuses predominantly on secondary and tertiary retrieval, though aspects of primary and quaternary retrieval are included. The examination’s emphasis is on adult practice, but questions regarding the retrieval of paediatric patients will be included. Neonatal retrieval is not covered by the syllabus. The standard to be achieved is that of a competent retrieval team member; candidates will however be put in the position of being a team leader for the purposes of assessment against that standard.

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