ADVICE for those applying for a CESR in Clinical Radiology

Please note that in providing you with any advice and guidance in respect of your CESR application, the RCR cannot give guarantees or opinions as to the likelihood of your application being successful; nor can any such advice guarantee success in any application to the GMC.

In addition to this summary advice document, please read the Specialty Specific Guidance (SSG) for clinical radiology [GMC specialty specific guidance (SSG)] and the current clinical radiology curriculum [www.rcr.ac.uk/radiology/curriculum]

You must demonstrate that your specialist training and/or specialist qualification and experience are at least equivalent to all the requirements of the current CCT curriculum in clinical radiology. All CESR applications are evaluated to the same standard no matter where you trained, qualified and/or currently practise. Your evidence must demonstrate competence across the breadth and depth of the CCT curriculum. This includes all generic competencies (communication, audit and quality improvement, research and others as set out in the curriculum) as well as the radiology specific competencies. If there is any part of the curriculum in which you cannot demonstrate your recent competence, you should consider delaying your application until you have achieved the required competencies.

Your evidence must be appropriately validated and anonymised where necessary according to the GMC guidance and all patient identifiable information must be removed.

More weight is given to PRIMARY evidence than secondary evidence such as references, letters and testimonials. More weight is given to evidence obtained within the last five years – so if you obtained a competency more than five years ago, it may not be given sufficient weight in your CESR application to help you demonstrate equivalence and you might want to consider updating your skills and competence where necessary before applying. If you have practised in a narrow area of the curriculum for more than the last five years, this may cause you some difficulty – please make sure that you can demonstrate recent competence across the breadth of the curriculum.
Key documents to submit include:

- **Training curriculum** – the version in force at time you trained, (which won’t necessarily be the current version) and evidence relating to your training such as appraisals, workplace based assessments, etc.;

- Details of your **specialist qualification** – if you don’t have the FRCR Examination you must demonstrate an equivalent test of knowledge. If you have failed any part of a qualification without a subsequent pass, you should consider delaying your application until you have passed the failed element. Otherwise, you will need to consider very carefully whether and how you can demonstrate that you have since met the competence requirements of that examination, even if you have subsequently passed a different examination;

- **Workload statistics** from the relevant department’s radiology information system and/or logbooks, *including a summary of the numbers*, to show your range of practice particularly over the last five years and to support the range of reporting that you submit;

- **Radiology reports** - you can submit as many radiology reports as you feel necessary to demonstrate your competence across the breadth of the curriculum (at least 40). Most of your reports should be from your most recent posts but you can submit reports from earlier if these cover additional areas of the curriculum (more weight is given to practice within the last five years). These form part of the evidence assessed to establish your competence across the breadth of the CCT curriculum, so you should submit a varied range of reports and cover both normal and abnormal reporting.

Please look at the [GMC specialty specific guidance (SSG)](https://www.gmc-uk.org) and the current [CCT curriculum](https://www.gmc-uk.org) for the range of reporting you should submit, with particular reference to all the radiology specific parts of the curriculum and the presentations and diagnoses sections where relevant. Please submit your reports in the order set out in the SSG and be sure to include the relevant range of modalities within each body system. Teleradiology reports of practical procedures not performed by you should not be submitted;

- **Clinical audit/quality improvement/clinical governance activity** – this is one of the most common areas in which applicants fail. This evidence is very important to your application. You must look at Domain 2 in the [GMC specialty specific guidance (SSG)](https://www.gmc-uk.org) for more detail.

You must submit examples of clinical audit that show re-audit, with significant information about service improvement activity, or quality improvement projects with significant information about how this contributed to service improvement. You should submit at least two examples of clinical audit and/or a quality improvement project and at least one of these should show completion of the audit cycle through re-audit or evidence of implementation of recommended changes.
For more information about audit and QI projects you can look at our Audit and Quality Improvement pages. This includes our AuditLive resource with examples of templates for audit formats which can be adapted.

You should also submit evidence of your participation in MDT activity (preferably the notes of recent meetings attended, along with the case histories discussed), clinical governance activity and relevant meeting attendance such as discrepancy meetings, radiology department meetings, etc.

Please do not provide simply a list of audits undertaken or meetings attended; these will not be given the weight which is given to primary evidence such as the audit or QI project itself or minutes of relevant meetings;

- **Appraisal information** including multi source feedback, workplace based assessment where available, patient feedback where available. You should include personal development plans, objective setting and how objectives have been achieved, and examples of reflective activity;

- **Specialty focussed CPD** from within the last five years, and CPD which covers management, teaching, equality and diversity, communication etc. CPD dating from more than five years ago is unlikely to be given as much weight;

- **Research activity** which might include research projects, publications, courses etc.

- **Teaching activity** evidence including student feedback, timetables and examples of presentations;

- **Management activity** – this might include rota management, budget management, participation in management meetings, chairing of meetings, appraisals and assessments conducted by you etc.

This list is not exhaustive, but your application is less likely to succeed if you do not submit this information as part of your application. You’ll also need to submit other documents as required by the GMC – please look carefully at the specialty specific guidance.

For further advice please email the RCR at specreg@rcr.ac.uk and attach your CV.

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