



The Diploma in Geriatric Medicine

Royal College of Physicians and
Surgeons of Glasgow



Introduction - DGM

- Introduced 1991
Clinical examination - short and long cases
Written examination - essays
- 1994-2003 Minor gradual modifications, core competencies defined, emphasis on problem solving, criterion referenced marking
- 2003 major revision of the examination
- November 2004 first diet of the new examination
- June 2005 first diet DGM (Hong Kong)



The DGM - who is it for?

- Doctors with enhanced experience and knowledge in care of older people
- Level that expected of a GP with a special interest
- Minimum 16 months after graduation
- Minimum of 4 months experience of geriatric medical care
- Runs twice per year



DGM – new format

Clinical examination – (4 stations of 20 mins)

- Chronic disabling disease
- Ethics
- Communication and sensory impairment
- Structured marksheets
- Computerised station
(10 parts eg video, photo, radiographs, ECG)
- Piloted Feb 2004, first diet 17th November 2004



Station 1

- Targeted history-10 minutes
- Targeted examination- 10 minutes
- eg: Stroke, PD, CHF, OA, COPD
- Could include issues such as falls risk assessment, osteoporosis, drug management, prognosis



Station 2-Ethics

- 12 minutes observed interview with actor/surrogate
- 7 minutes questioning by examiners
- eg: PEG feeding, DNR, Stop antibiotics etc



DGM station 4: part 4



Implications

- 6 examiners, not 4 as before
- Greatly augmented question bank
- Need for images for station 4- Google!



Benefits

- “Real world” topics
- Fairer test-
- Standardised cases
- Objective criterion marking
- No examiner discussion
- Candidate and examiner feedback forms
- PMETB



Further Information

- www.rcpsglasg.ac.uk