



## **Urgent notice for trainees**

**Changes to Basic Specialist Training (BST) in general internal medicine:**

**From 1 July 2010, it will no longer be possible to undertake Basic Specialist Training (BST) in stand-alone SHO posts or registrar posts.**

**Q. How does this affect me?**

**From July next year, you must be on a one- or two-year SHO rotation programme in order to receive credit for BST in general internal medicine.**

**Please see overleaf for more frequently asked questions about this important change to your training programme.**

**If you have any other questions, please contact Aoife Ní Mhaitiú in the BST office at 01 8639 711 or [BST@rcpi.ie](mailto:BST@rcpi.ie).**

**Q. Will there be enough SHO rotation programmes for all trainees?**

Hospitals are currently developing new SHO rotation programmes using existing stand-alone SHO posts to ensure that there will be enough places for all trainees.

To date, new SHO rotation programmes have been developed in the South East (Kilkenny, Clonmel and Wexford), Limerick, the Midlands, Sligo, and Mid-Leinster (Tallaght, Naas and Peamount). More new rotation programmes are expected to be developed in other regions using remaining stand-alone SHO training posts.

**Q. I am a first year trainee currently working in stand-alone posts. Will I need to find a rotation programme starting in July 2010?**

Yes. If you have one year left to complete in July 2010, you will need to complete BST on a one-year rotation programme.

To facilitate trainees who are currently working in stand-alone SHO posts, the College will include more one-year SHO rotation programmes in the 2010 SHO Matching Scheme.

**Q. How do I get onto an SHO rotation programme?**

There are two ways of applying to rotation programmes:

1. Most of the larger SHO rotation programmes are filled by the College via the annual SHO Matching Scheme.

The College will accept applications for the 2010 SHO Matching Scheme from Wednesday 6 January 2010 – please see our website [www.rcpi.ie](http://www.rcpi.ie) for more information about this recruitment process. A list of important dates is included in this document.

2. Some hospitals will fill their SHO rotation programmes directly. These programmes will be advertised and filled by hospitals in the same way that stand-alone posts were. Applicants should ensure before applying that the rotation programme is approved for BST by the College. If in doubt, check with the BST office.

**Q. What happens if I don't get onto a rotation programme in July 2010?**

Your training will not be approved for BST unless you are on an approved SHO rotation programme.

If you are not currently on a rotation programme, you are advised to apply to the 2010 SHO Matching Scheme in order to be placed on a one-year rotation programme and /or apply to one-year rotation programmes advertised and filled directly by hospitals.

**Q. Why has this change been introduced?**

The BST Committee is currently engaged in a major reform of the BST programme, which has included the introduction of a new curriculum and logbook, and the creation of an online medical education centre.

The incorporation of stand-alone medical SHO posts into structured, approved rotation programmes will ensure greater consistency in the training provided on the BST programme in general internal medicine.

SHO rotation programmes offer a series of secure, pre-arranged posts designed to meet the requirements for BST certification, and trainees on rotation programmes tend to benefit from improved career guidance and mentoring.

**Q. What will happen to registrar posts?**

Registrar posts will no longer be approved for BST in general internal medicine from July 2010.

The College recognises the important role the registrar grade plays in relation to progression from BST to Higher Specialist Training, and it is expected that an intermediate training programme for a limited number of registrars will be developed by 2011.

**Q. I will have less than one year left to complete on 1 July 2010. Do I still need to get onto a one-year rotation programme?**

Yes. From July 2010, BST is accredited in blocks of one year.

If you have any time left to complete after 1 July 2010, you are advised to apply for a one- or two-year rotation programme, even if you only have two or three months left to do.

It may be possible, after being placed on a rotation programme, to agree an earlier completion date with your programme director and the BST office.

**Q. I am currently on maternity leave and will return to work after July 2010. How will I get onto a rotation programme?**

You will need to apply for a one- or two-year rotation programme scheduled to commence in July 2010 and, if successfully placed on a rotation programme, you must inform your employers and Programme Director when you will return to work and recommence your training.

Applications for rotation programmes are accepted on the assumption that the applicant is in a position to start work on 1st July, so if this is not the case, you must inform the relevant people (BST office, programme directors) at the application stage.

**Q. I have been offered a registrar post in the specialty I want to pursue at Specialist Registrar level. Can I take it?**

The registrar post will not be approved for BST, so you should take this into account if you require further clinical training to complete BST.

**Important dates for the 2010 SHO Matching Scheme:**

Application form available on [www.rcpi.ie](http://www.rcpi.ie) - Wednesday 6th January 2010

Closing date for applications - Friday 29th January 2010

Short listing results emailed to candidates - Wednesday 24th February 2010

**Interviews to be held between 1st March and 12th March 2010**

First round offers emailed to candidates - Wednesday 31st March 2010

Deadline for accepting first round offers - Tuesday 6th April 2010

Second round offers emailed to candidates - Friday 16th April 2010

Deadline for accepting second round offers - Tuesday 20th April 2010

Dates are subject to change. Further information will be made available on the College website [www.rcpi.ie](http://www.rcpi.ie) in December 2009.