The GMC have recently reviewed the ARCP requirements for LTFTTs and have produced interim guidance on the evidence requirement for staged reviews. The advice given by the GMC with regard to ARCP stage reviews is likely to be further clarified with a potential revision to the Gold Guide ARCP Outcomes to reflect the particular circumstances for LTFTTs.

In order not to disadvantage current trainees the RCGP wishes to implement the GMC guidance with immediate effect.

- The GMC have offered interim guidance on how the Gold Guide might be interpreted more flexibly in order that less than full-time trainees are not disadvantaged compared to full-time trainees in respect of the amount of evidence required for ARCP reviews. All less than full time trainees (LTFTTs) should have a calendar year annual ARCP. However, LTFTTs may not have done enough work place based assessments (WPBA) to demonstrate progression on an annual calendar basis.

- The purpose of the review is to ensure that trainees have engaged with the training process; have undertaken some WPBA and are making satisfactory progress for their stage of training. It will also need to fulfil the requirements for future trainee revalidation

- The amount of evidence required to assess that engagement will vary. As a guide, the indicative number of assessments for each annual calendar review that would normally be expected should be the pro rata equivalent when considered against the trainees working hours. However, it may be more than the pro rata equivalent; this will depend on the trainee’s performance, progress and any recommendations from the previous review.

- For gateway ARCP reviews between ST years a trainee must provide the minimum amount of evidence specified by the RCGP. For example, for a trainee working at 50% of full time, the required evidence at the end of their ST1 year may be compiled over the equivalent period worked, i.e. 2 calendar years.

- Outcomes at gateway ARCPs must be satisfactory and demonstrate collection of the minimum evidence specified by the RCGP to allow progression to the next stage of a trainee’s programme. At present it is recommended that calendar ARCPs, not at a gateway in training, should note on the ARCP form the percentage of less than full-time hours worked and the indicative amount of evidence that should normally be expected at that calendar review. The form should also document any advice given to the trainee on their engagement.

Statement agreed and complied by Jane Mamelok & John Howard (RCGP WPBA) Sheona McLeod (COGPED) & Kevin Hill (RCGP Certification)
20 January 2012