

Irish Committee for Emergency Medicine Training

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Quality Improvement Project for ASTEM

Introduction

From August 2021, submission of a Quality Improvement Project (QIP) is no longer a requirement of the Final FRCEM examination. Instead, QI skills and knowledge will be assessed within the wider programme of assessment described in the 2021 RCEM Curriculum.

These changes have been discussed by ICEMT and, in recognition of the importance of Quality Improvement and the value of completed QIPs, the Committee has decided that there will be an ongoing requirement for Irish trainees to complete a QIP during ASTEM. The QIP will be assessed by ICEMT and must be deemed satisfactory prior to completion of training.

Timing

The QIP can be completed and submitted for assessment at any time during the first three years of ASTEM. The latest it can be submitted is 6 weeks prior to the ASTEM year 3 RITA session. Failure to submit on time will be considered by ICEMT on a case by case basis.

In general, a QIP will take six to nine months to design, implement and write up. For that reason, it is probably best to tackle the QIP during a post of at least 12 months duration. However, with forward planning, it may be possible to achieve a QIP during a six month post.

Transition arrangements

The submission requirements above apply to ASTEM trainees commencing Year 1 in July 2021. Those in Years 2 to 4 as of July 2021 are required to submit the QIP prior to the Year 4 RITA session.

Those who have submitted a successful QIP as part of the FRCEM examination are not required to submit a QIP to ICEMT. They should forward written confirmation of their FRCEM QIP success to the Training Office as soon as possible.

Training

Formal QIP training will be provided by means of an annual structured QIP workshop, delivered in RCSI. In light of the recent examination requirement, most training sites have developed some local expertise in QIP development that will be available to trainees.

Structure

In line with RCEM advice, the QIP should have the following broad structure:

- Identification of the issue and justification for the QIP
- Literature review
- Analysis of the issue
- Description of change process
- Team and stakeholder engagement
- Assessing the effects of the QIP
- Outcomes
- Reflection

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Assessment

The QIP will be independently assessed by two trainers using the structured marking template devised by RCEM. In the event of a discrepancy between the two assessors, a third independent assessment will be carried out. ICEMT will assemble a panel of assessors, for whom training in assessment will be provided.

The marking scheme describes the QIP as 'Pass', 'Borderline pass', 'Borderline fail' and 'Fail' in a number of domains (e.g. Analysis of the problem), using descriptors for each score in each domain. Each of the awarded scores is assigned a mark – Pass 4, Borderline pass 3, Borderline fail 2 and Fail 1. To be successful, the QIP must achieve a mark of 2.5 when marks for each domain are averaged.

Focused feedback will be provided in the event of an unsuccessful QIP.

Resources

QIP resources are available on the RCEM website, under 'Quality and policy' – [click here](#)