

## **Diploma of Expert Practice (DEP) in Histological Dissection - Differences Between New Versions of Guidance to Candidates and Trainers and Training Logbook (August 2023) and Previous Versions**

In August 2023 following work by the IBMS/RCPATH Histological Dissection Conjoint Board new versions of both the DEP in Histological Dissection Training Logbook and the accompanying Guidance to Candidates and Trainers were issued.

Version 2.0 of the DEP in Histological Dissection Training Logbook replaces Version 1.7 from March 2017 and Version 3.0 of the Guidance to Candidates and Trainers replaces Version 2.0 from January 2019. This document explains the main differences between these new versions and the previous versions of the same documents.

### **New Training Logbook**

Candidates who are already registered on the qualification are **not** required to purchase a new training logbook but should use the reference copy available on the IBMS website.

### **Sign-Off of Modules within Training Logbook**

The most significant change is around who can sign-off the modules within the Training Logbook. Rather than requiring a Consultant Pathologist to sign-off the modules it is now stated that any Consultant level individual (who could be a pathologist or a scientist) can sign off the overall logbook and any suitably qualified individual can sign-off the modules within the logbook.

The Consultant level individual must sign the declaration within the logbook that confirms that those who have signed-off any of the modules within the logbook had the delegated authority to do so.

This change has been made to reflect that the DEP qualification is a long-established qualification and that several scientists have now successfully completed the Advanced Specialist Diploma (HSD) in Histological Dissection and/or the ASD in Histopathology Reporting. It is up to each individual department to decide whether a scientist should have the authority to sign-off modules within the logbook.

### **Evidence Required Within the Portfolio**

Greater clarity has been provided within the Guidance to Candidates and Trainers document on evidence that must be included within the portfolio that is submitted to the IBMS for assessment. This includes more information on the

- Case Studies that must be included which can be up to 1,500 words (+/- 10%) (rather than 1,000s +/- 10% as stated in the previous version of the guidance) and which must be referenced and include appropriate imagery.

- Formative Assessments such as Direct Observation of Practical Skills (DOPS) and/or other competency assessments that must be submitted for **each** optional module being applied for along with evidence of regular progress report meetings
- Audits that must be included to clarify that it is insufficient to supply the audit data and that instead these should be written up and include, where appropriate, references to appropriate standards

The guidance document also explains that the portfolio must contain a minimum of two years of practice but that the evidence for the optional modules can to some extent be staggered with some modules having evidence mainly from the earlier part of the training period whilst for other optional modules the evidence may only come from the last 15 to 18 months.

The guidance document now includes templates for Progress Reports, Direct Observation of Practical Skills (DOPS), Clinical Audits and Reflection which can be used by candidates when compiling their portfolio

### **Outcome of the Marking of the Portfolio**

The guidance document also now clarifies that a candidate may be awarded some but not all the optional modules that they have applied for and that provided that the other sections of the portfolio meet the standards required a candidate will be able to proceed to the exams. They will be given the opportunity to address the shortcomings in the other modules that they have applied for ahead of the exam results being issued.

### **Resource Lists**

In order to enable the regular updating of relevant resources this information has been removed from the Guidance to Candidates and Trainers and will instead be published as a separate document on the DEP page of the IBMS website.

### **Mandatory Module 4 - Pathological Processes**

The title of this modules has reverted to the original title of Pathological Processes rather than Pathological Procedures that it had inadvertently been called in Version 1.7 of the Training Logbook.

### **Optional Module 7 – Gynaecological - Placenta Specimens**

It remains the case that candidates can be awarded this module either with or without placentas depending on whether appropriate evidence of that specimen type is provided within the portfolio of evidence. The supplementary certificate that is issued on passing the examination will indicate whether placentas have been covered to an appropriate standard by the candidate. Candidates should note that the Paper 2 examination may include a question on placentas.

### **Evidence Required for the Award of Additional Modules**

In the new version of the Guidance to Candidates and Trainers the requirements around the evidence that must be submitted by an individual that wants to demonstrate competence in additional modules(s) after obtaining the diploma has been amended and clarified. The requirements now additionally include the submission of an audit of personal practice relating to each of the optional modules being applied for. The full list of requirements are stated in the guidance document.