

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS USING THE ACCREDITATION OF TRANSFERABLE COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK (ATCF) FOR TRANSFER INTO A GP SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges has set out a framework for accreditation of transferable competencies (due to be published with frequently asked questions soon). The GMC have approved ATCF dependent upon appropriate curriculum change and approval for each specialty including general practice.

The GMC letter of 3 October 2014 sets out the criteria for approval of curricula for ATCF.

Extract from GMC letter to Colleges

The GMC has been working with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) on approving the 'Accreditation of Transferable Competences Framework' (ATCF). ATCF is the framework that meets the needs for those doctors in training who have already gained competences in one specialty who then wish to change career direction. If some of the previous training is relevant to the CCT in the new career direction, they will not need to repeat it. We of course already have a system for the recognition of previous competencies CESR/CEGPR (CP) suitable for some doctors. These are not affected by ATCF.

This document sets out the process for specialty trainees wanting to transfer into a GP specialty programme using the ATCF together with the eligibility criteria for ATCF into GP specialty training.

How to apply for a shortened GPST programme using the ATCF to change from one approved specialty training programme to another.

- Discuss your career choices with your training programme director (TPD) and review the GP Curriculum. It would also be advisable to discuss it with your local GP TPD who will be more familiar with the GP Curriculum and can offer appropriate career guidance for GP.
- Check that your current specialty training programme curriculum has been approved by the GMC for ATCF. If it is then you may apply for a GPST programme using the ATCF.
- Please check that you meet the ATCF into GP eligibility criteria (attached). Please note that you should have completed at least twelve months of your specialty training.
- You must apply to GP specialty training and be selected through the National GP recruitment and selection process (applications open 11 November 2014). You can apply online using the ORIEL system.
- When you complete your ORIEL application you must declare that you wish to use the ATCF route. If you do not declare it at application, you cannot apply the ATCF retrospectively.
- If you are successful at GP recruitment and you are transferring from an approved specialty training programme then you will be eligible to use the ATCF for a shortened GPST programme.
- Eligibility for entry into GPST using the ATCF is conditional on successful competitive selection (GP NRO recruitment and selection) and will be dependent on capacity, local availability of a suitable programme and subject to local assessment of the trainee's educational requirements for completion of a GPST programme.
- If you are successful in the 2015 GP recruitment round you will transfer into a shortened GPST programme from August 2015 and should continue to gather evidence and should have a gateway ARCP in your current specialty prior to transfer.

- You are advised to continue gather evidence in your current specialty contextually, that is community facing and includes communication skills and to comment upon it in your current e-portfolio
- You will be required to have an ARCP to cover the review period for the six months of the relevant ATCF specialty. It is expected that your final gateway ARCP from your exiting programme prior to entry into shortened a GP programme would include that review.
- You are expected to upload a copy of the exiting ARCP report into the GP e-portfolio when you start the GP programme and to submit that to the RCGP GP specialist applications department no less than six months prior to the CCT application.
- You are only eligible for ATCF entry into a shorted GPST programme if that final gateway ARCP in the exiting specialty is an outcome 1 – satisfactory progress. Whilst unsatisfactory outcomes would not preclude you from starting a GPST programme if successful at recruitment; you cannot do a shortened ATCF programme and will be required to complete full three or four year GPST CCT programme.
- Do not resign from your current programme until you have a confirmed offer and have been allocated to a GPST programme. You should consult with your current TPD and Head of School about the process of resigning from that programme.

What happens in August 2015 – entry into GP ST1?

The local GP School should have made an assessment of your programme needs taking into account the period of prior training using the ATCF detailing a shortened, balanced GPST programme.

You will be required to register with the RCGP as an associate in training (AiT) and subscribe to the GP e-portfolio. That should be in place at the time of, or as soon as practically possible after the start of your GPST programme in August 2015.

Trainees transferring into GP using the ATCF framework will be subject to the same assessment and ARCP schedule as set out in the Gold Guide (2013).

Summary of first gateway ARCP outcomes for ATCF trainees

ATCF trainees would normally reach their first gateway ARCP in GP after six months in ST1 with a review of e-portfolio evidence and an assessment of progress into ST2.

- Trainees that make satisfactory progress at the first gateway ARCP in GPST should be awarded an outcome 1 and should progress into ST2 and continue with the shortened ATCF programme.
- Trainees awarded an Outcome 2 at the first gateway ARCP should progress into ST2 and continue with the shortened ATCF programme, with targeted training as determined by the ARCP recommendations.
- Trainees that do not make satisfactory progress at the first gateway ARCP are likely to be awarded an Outcome 3 and would be eligible for additional training. The duration of the period of additional training will be determined by the Postgraduate Dean dependent on the educational need and should not exceed the maximum allowable period as set out in the Gold Guide (2013 version 5 *paragraph 7.76*).
- Once accepted on a shortened ATCF GPST programme trainees cannot change to a three or four year CCT programme retrospectively.

CRITERIA FOR TRANSFERRING FROM SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMMES INTO GP SPECIALTY TRAINING (GPST) USING THE ACCREDITATION OF TRANSFERABLE COMPETENCIES FRAMEWORK (ATCF).

1. The ATCF applies ONLY to doctors in training who decide to change career path and transfer from one training programme to another. Therefore, the ATCF can only be applied to doctors who hold a national training number (NTN) for the specialty approved for ATCF.

GMC extract: The ATCF applies only to those moving between periods of GMC approved training. It is aimed at the early years of training.

2. The transferring specialty curriculum should be approved by the GMC for ATCF.
3. For 2015 ATCF into GP has been approved but the process will be piloted (GP ATCF Process Pilot). For 2015 GP ATCF the following specialties may apply the ATCF and move into GP specialty training (GPST). This may be extended in subsequent years.
 - Anaesthetics (Not ACCS route)
 - General medicine (core medical training CMT) including geriatrics
 - Obstetrics and Gynaecology
 - Paediatrics
 - Psychiatry

Applications from trainees in specialties not listed above but with specialty training curricula approved by the GMC for ATCF may apply for ATCF in GP at the discretion of the Postgraduate Medical Dean of the host and receiving LETB/Deanery.

4. Trainees using the ATCF into GP specialty training programmes must be successful in the GP recruitment and selection process for the current year. Trainees applying in 2015 for ATCF from August 2015 MUST go through GP recruitment in 2015. Intent to use the ATCF for transfer should be declared before recruitment and CANNOT be applied retrospectively.
5. The ATCF framework is intended for trainees changing from one training programme to another, it CANNOT be used for trainees re-joining a training programme in the same specialty after breaks in training.
6. ATCF cannot be used to transfer from one GPST programme to another, the correct route for that is the inter deanery transfer process.
7. For transfer into GPST under the ATCF the maximum period of reduction within the total duration of the GP training programme (normally three or four years) shall be six months.

8. Trainees should have an exit ARCP in the transferring specialty that includes a review of satisfactory progression within the period of approved experience to which the ATCF is being applied, which shall be no less than twelve months completed in the transferring specialty.

9. The ATCF can only be applied to trainees who have a satisfactory outcome (Outcome 1) at their final ARCP in the transferring specialty programme. Trainees that are successful in GP recruitment but have unsatisfactory ARCP outcomes from their exiting programme will be required to complete a full three or four year CCT GP specialty training programme.