

FAQs

Who can sign up for the diploma?

Any doctor or allied health professional working in MSK care – including GPs, GP Working in Extended Roles as well as AHPs working towards advanced practice roles (including first contact practitioner and advanced practitioners in primary care) in a range of community settings.

Is there a course?

The diploma is an examination only, designed to allow doctors and AHPs to evidence their competency in MSK care.

Learning for the examination is self-directed. It can be expected that existing university and other (e.g Versus Arthritis courses), along with knowledge of current reputable guidelines when mapped to the [diploma syllabus](#) can all equip clinicians with the knowledge required to pass the diploma.

Where can I take the exam?

The examination is delivered remotely, so it can be taken from anywhere in the world. You do not need to travel to a test centre.

How much does it cost, and how do I pay?

The diploma costs £250. Payment can be made [via the booking link](#) by visa or mastercard. To discuss alternative payment options, please contact the exam administrators at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh at sem.exams@rcsed.ac.uk.

What post-nominals are awarded upon successful completion of the Diploma?

Passing the exam will grant use of the post-nominal DipMSKMed. Those who subsequently become [Diplomate Members](#) of the Faculty will be entitled to use the form DFSEM(UK)

What resources are there to help me prepare?

PCRMM has published [a list of useful resources that can be found here](#). These resources were not specifically developed with the diploma in mind, so it is recommended that those sitting the exam consider their own learning needs when mapped to the syllabus and seek out additional resources as needed. The Red Whale MSK and Chronic Pain Handbook is recommended as a good revision and reference text.

How does the diploma fit with the FCP/AP pathway developed by HEE?

The diploma is designed as an entry level applied knowledge test for multiple specialities wishing to work in community MSK settings. While it does not, in

isolation, provide evidence of achieving competencies in the curriculum it can contribute to a portfolio of evidence for any individual aiming to work in an advanced role/

How often will the diploma run?

The diploma will run annually.

Can undergraduate students take the Diploma?

As the diploma is a postgraduate qualification, undergraduate students are not currently eligible to sit the examination.