CT1 Applicant Information for a Study into the Validity and Reliability of a Machine Marked Test (MMT) for Selection.
Entry to Core Training (CT1) in Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) and Anaesthesia

Project Outline:
This will be the third year that we have asked CT1 Anaesthesia and Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) applicants to sit a Machine Marked Test (MMT) during their selection process. It is an established part of the General Practice selection process and in 2009 was used in a national selection pilot by Acute Core Medicine. We are running a national project to evaluate the MMT in Units of Application (Deaneries) across the UK.

You may have been asked to either sit the MMT before your interview at a regional test centre through the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges or to sit the MMT while attending for interview (this will depend on the deaneries that you are applying to). You only need to sit the test once, this can be at any of the deaneries you may be applying to. If you are given the choice we would prefer you to sit it electronically before your interview.

We are running the MMT in parallel to the standard selection processes, the score obtained will not count towards any aspect of your individual selection ranking. We ask that you undertake this on a voluntary basis, as part of a study for which you will be asked to provide informed consent.

The primary outcome measure is the correlation of applicants’ selection performance with their performance in the MMT. In addition; demographic data will be collected to ensure fairness and your feedback will be sought to assess face validity (the acceptability of the test).

Your acceptance or refusal will not affect your selection; the interviewers will be unaware if you do not choose to participate and will be unaware of your MMT score. There will also be a prize lottery for taking part (this will be allocated by random draw, not for the highest mark).

The Test Itself:
The paper will initially appear similar to a standard Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) exam paper. It will consist of questions (items) that have been developed and refined over the past two years by the MMT pilot team. For 2010 we will be primarily testing a Situational Judgement Test (SJT) also known as a Professional Dilemma test, the SJT will take up to 60 minutes to complete. The SJT items are designed to assess your awareness of appropriate professional behaviours with questions based around work-related dilemmas. More information can be found here.

The MMT is not negatively marked and you should therefore attempt all questions, there are two question types within the paper. Please read the instructions carefully, answer honestly and to the best of your ability. Even though this is undertaken on a voluntary basis, it is important that the test is conducted under exam conditions. Please do not use mobile devices to check information or confer with your colleagues.

Members of the study team and the deanery staff are available to answer any additional questions that you may have. We look forward to meeting you during the interview.

Good luck and thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Anaesthesia Recruitment Validation Group (ARVG)
South West Peninsula Deanery
NHS Education South West

ARVG Applicant Information 2010: MMT
A Study into the Validity and Reliability of a Machine Marked Test (MMT)
Entry to Core Training (CT1) in Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) and Anaesthesia

CONSENT FORM (Deanery Copy):

You should have received and read the relevant information sheet, ‘CT1 Applicant Information for a Study into the Validity and Reliability of a Machine Marked Test (MMT) for Selection’

Your participation in this study is voluntary and if you choose not to take part, it will not affect your interview evaluations in any way. You are free to withdraw at any point and without explanation. Interviewers will have no knowledge of your participation or not in this study.

The scores obtained from the Machine Marked Test will be kept and correlated to your shortlisting and interview performance. We will also collect basic demographic data to ensure that the test is fair across gender and ethnic groups.

The scores from the shortlisting and interview process will be stored by the Deanery. The results of the standard in-training assessments on taking up a CT training post are also stored by the Deanery. I understand that this will occur in the same way independent of my participation in this study.

I confirm that I have read and understand the information from Human Resources regarding the study and I am happy with the explanations provided on the information sheet.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time, without explanation and without my training or legal rights being affected.

I understand that data will be collected during shortlisting and the interview process for correlation to the Machine Marked Test (MMT). This data may be shared in anonymised form with a Department of Health evaluation team and collated with results of other pilots around the UK.

I understand that any data involved in the publication of any aspect of the study will remain anonymised.

Name of Applicant:  
Signature of Applicant:  
Date: