GENERAL GUIDANCE NOTES
The following applies to all C modules.

Before embarking on this, or other modules, candidates must fulfil the following criteria:

a) Be a member of RCVS, or hold a registrable degree.
b) Have at least 1 year’s postgraduate experience working as a veterinary surgeon
c) Be enrolled with RCVS if intending to take the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (enrolment will be valid for 10 years)
d) It is also recommended that candidates who graduated after 2007 will have already declared themselves competent in their ‘Year One Competencies’, by completing the Professional Development Phase (PDP) before enrolling for any modules.

PREPARING FOR A C MODULE
Before embarking on any module, the candidate is advised to plan a structured programme of continuing professional development to help them achieve their objectives. Involvement in ‘learning sets’ and networks of other candidates working towards the same or similar modules is encouraged; this could be a service provided by CPD providers, or could be initiated by the candidate themselves on a less formal basis. RCVS and the University of Edinburgh consider that a candidate will need advisers/mentors to support them through the programme. The candidate is free to choose their own advisers/mentors, or they may wish to enrol on a course offered by a university or by other CPD providers, where tutorial or supervisor support is available.

GUIDANCE FOR THIS MODULE
Candidates working towards the designated Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Equine Dentistry) will need to complete the following modules: A-FAVP.1 Foundations in Advanced Veterinary Practice, B-EP.3 (Equine Practice), the three Equine Dentistry C modules (C-E.12, C-E.13, C-E.14) plus one other B or C module. Upon completion of all the necessary modules, a further synoptic assessment will also be required.
AIMS
The objective of this module is to promote a scientific, evidence based approach to equine dentistry, and to help candidates develop both practical and theoretical skills in the field. The candidate is expected to build on the foundation skills developed when undertaking the A and B modules, and to demonstrate progression towards advanced practitioner skills. The candidate will be able to evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

MODULE CONTENT
At the end of this module, candidates should:
• have developed a thorough knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the equine oral cavity and associated structures
• feel competent to treat the commoner dental abnormalities found in the horse
• be able to take a well balanced approach to equine dentistry
• be familiar with dental techniques such as radiographic imaging, indications for dental extraction and the management of various forms of dental pathology
• be thoroughly competent in the techniques required to maintain good oral health in the equid
• be able to safely use motorised equipment for the correction of dental overgrowths where appropriate
• be able to readily identify cases requiring referral to a specialist institution or practitioner.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY FOR THIS MODULE
The assessment is in the form of an examination in three parts held at Edinburgh.

The structure of the examination is as follows:
• A steeplechase-type exam involving the interpretation of radiographs and the identification of pathology in preserved specimens.
• A practical test where the candidate will examine, develop a treatment plan for and carry out dental work on a live horse within a 30 minute time limit. The objective of this test is to assess clinical examination technique, observation of dental pathology, and demonstration of some corrective techniques using appropriate equipment and sedation.
• A 10 question ‘short’ answer exam.

If the candidate has any questions on the assessment process, these should be directed to the CertAVP team at Edinburgh. Full contact details are provided at induction, and via the virtual learning environment.
SYLLABUS CONTENT

1. Common dental diseases
Candidates should be able to recognise the presenting clinical signs (and absence of signs) of the following common dental conditions, and give appropriate treatments:
   • Incisors: overgrowth, smiles, slants, frowns, steps.
   • Molars: waves, hooks, ramps, excessive transverse ridges, diastema, occlusal defects and fractures.
   • The gingival, especially periodontal disease.

2. Management of large overgrowths requiring motorised equipment
Candidates should be able to take forward basic floating skills from the foundation module C-E.12 and use these in combination with motorised equipment to deal with large dental overgrowths:
   • Severe dental overgrowths resulting in malocclusions commonly termed “Hooks” and “Ramps”
   • “Wave mouth”
   • “Step Mouth”
   • “Excessive transverse ridges”

3. Dental pathology
Candidates should be able to identify and classify various dental lesions, specifically including:
   • Periodontal disease – assessment of and estimation of attachment loss in individual teeth
   • Infundibular decay – as an important cause of dental fracture
   • Pathogenesis, identification and classification of infundibular lesions
   • Pulp exposure, necrosis and pulpitis
   • Identification and assessment of disease of the pulp chamber

4. Management of diastema and gingival / periodontal disease
   • Understanding of pathophysiology of periodontal disease in horses and ponies including techniques facilitating its prevention and management
   • Candidates should be able to demonstrate a logical approach to the treatment of these diseases, and the formulation of a treatment plan which may involve:
     o Correction of malocclusions
     o Use of local debridement and perioceuticals
     o Use of diastema bur – indications, complications and technique
     o Importance of removing affected teeth from occlusion
     o Dietary management
     o Use of systemic drugs
     o Exodontia
5. Management of the dental disease in the geriatric horse
Candidates should be familiar with the special requirements for dentistry in the ‘geriatric’ horse.
• Features of geriatric dentistry predisposing to dental disease
• Consequences of dental disease in geriatric horses
• History of dental treatments in geriatric animals
• Treatment of loose cheek
• Limitations of the ability to correct malocclusions and uneven tables in the older horse
• Significance of loose incisors
• Temporomandibular arthropathy
• Systemic disease impacting on geriatric dentition (e.g. Cushing’s Syndrome)
• Complications in the treatment of dental disease

6. Management of the dental disease in the miniature horse
Candidates should become familiar with specific dental conditions associated with the miniature horse.
• The effects of overcrowding, misalignments, impactions recognising maxillary and mandibular eruption cysts
• Possible need for special ‘miniaturised’ equipment

7. Awareness of some practised techniques in “performance dentistry”
• Anecdotal versus evidence based practice

8. The young developing horse
• Identification and principles of treatment in developing animals such as supernumerary teeth, brachygnathism
• The influence of eruption times of the molars on the formation of ‘waves’ and ‘dental overgrowths’

9. Radiography of the upper and lower jaw
Candidates should be able to demonstrate a full understanding of the performance and interpretation of veterinary diagnostic imaging as it relates to equine dentistry:
• Effective restraint and positioning
• Projections, film type (digital), radiographic safety
• Description of and knowledge of equine dental radiology
• Understanding of the application and limitation of radiographic techniques
• Understanding of alternative techniques such as nuclear medicine, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. An appreciation of the indications for referral for these techniques.