



Royal College of Anaesthetists

Training Programme Update

Nbr: 02/2009

Date: 19 November

Deferment of Intermediate training to ST5

Background

During the development of the current anaesthesia curriculum it was clear that not all schools could deliver all the intermediate units of training in years ST3 and 4. In response, the College allowed schools to prospectively apply for approval to defer some intermediate level units to ST5 with the proviso that the uncompleted intermediate units would be completed in ST5. There was always the intention that all schools must conform to deliver the training programme as described in the curriculum to support the concept of spiral learning.

This year, the Training Department has been receiving Intermediate Level Training Certificates [ILTC] from a number of schools with deferred units of training. Some of these schools do not have formal approval from the College to defer units of training to ST5 as outlined in section 4.2 – Local dispensations in Part IV of the CCT in Anaesthetics.

The College has reviewed the policy in the current curriculum and has revised the policy which will be formally published in the new curriculum which should become effective on 1 August 2010. In the meantime, the College Training Committee has decided that approval for all deferrals is the responsibility of the Medical Secretary.

Procedure for deferrals

All requests for deferral of intermediate units of training from ST3 and 4 to ST5 require prospective approval from the Medical Secretary. A maximum of 2 units of training may be deferred. Failure to receive prospective approval will invalidate any ILTC with deferred units of training listed.

The process is as follows:

- A letter must be sent to the Training Department from the Programme Director, Regional Adviser [or Deputy] and College Tutor explaining why the unit/s of training could not be delivered and why the trainee should be permitted to progress with deferral.
- The Medical Secretary will respond to the request in writing with either 'approved' or 'not approved'. If not approved, reasons for the decision will be included.
- If the decision is 'not approved', this may be appealed against by responding to the reasons in the Medical Secretary's decision letter.
- A copy of the letter will be added to the trainee's file in the College.
- Deferred units of training must be completed in the first 6 months of ST5

Commencement Date: 19 November 2009

Review: N/A

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