



Royal College of Anaesthetists

Training Programme Update

02/2008

ICM and Anaesthesia Training – Basic Level

Background

The September Training Committee and subsequent Council meeting have agreed changes to the published curriculum guidance on the ratio of anaesthesia training to intensive care training at the basic level for both ACCS and anaesthesia trainees; and the progression rules from CT2 to ST3 for all trainees.

The current curriculum rules for the basic level are that trainees on the anaesthesia programme will normally complete 3/12 in ICM and 21/12 in anaesthesia. For ACCS trainees, training normally consists of 6/12 ICM and 18/12 anaesthesia. It is also possible for ACCS trainees to carry forward those basic level anaesthesia competences not achieved into ST3. These rules were introduced in the context of run through training and are in effect a legacy of time based training. The change to a competency based programme and uncoupling of CT2 from ST3, ironically has imposed a new time based rigidity on trainee progression.

For ACCS, emergency medicine and acute medicine are delivered in 6/12 modules. For rotation planning, in most Schools, it was decided that ICM and anaesthesia could also be 6/12 modules. This leaves 12/12 in the final year of the 3 year programme to be dedicated to anaesthesia. Some hospitals/Trusts, as a consequence of the ACCS structure, wish their anaesthesia trainees to complete 6/12 in ICM in their 2 year programme.

Training programme changes

The new College policy is as follows:

- Trainees, whether ACCS (anaes) or solely anaesthesia, cannot progress to ST3 (anaesthesia) until they have obtained the Basic Level Training Certificate i.e. have achieved **all** the basic competences for anaesthesia and ICM.
- Training programmes may allow anaesthesia trainees (non-ACCS trainees) to complete 6/12 in ICM in the first 2 years but TPDs should be aware of the implications of point 1.
- The second 3/12 of ICM in the basic years does not contribute to intermediate levels of competency because trainees will not have the wider experience that underpins intermediate level assessment standards. In other words a trainee who has done 6/12 ICM at basic level will still have to do 6/12 ICM training at intermediate level. Normally trainees complete 3/12 in ST3-4 and 3/12 in ST5-6. Trainees must complete 3/12 of their intermediate level ICM training in the last 3 years of the programme.

Commencement Date: 1 August 2008. These changes have been submitted to PMETB for incorporation in the CCT in Anaesthetics and retrospective approval.

Review: N/A

17 October 2008