

Supporting specialist CPD for consultants and SAS anaesthetists

12 July 2014

Dear Dr X,

Thank you for submitting your online portfolio. I can confirm that all documents required for the recertification process have now been received electronically.

The College is required to confirm, for both relicensing and recertification, that relevant CPD has been performed in line with the GMC's guidelines on Maintaining Good Medical Practice. Whilst there are several ways that evidence to support this may be presented, you may wish to make use of the online e-learning resources and assessments available on e-LA which will record these automatically for you.

Yours sincerely,

Introduction

The recent arrival of the GMC's document 'Licensing. It's time to decide' reminds us that the 'Licence to practise' will be introduced in autumn of this year as the first step towards the introduction of the revalidation process. A registered doctor will be required to undertake periodic renewal of that licence by demonstrating that they are up to date and fit to practise. It remains an individual's responsibility to be familiar with Good Medical Practice and to follow the guidance contained within.

Revalidation is not being introduced at the same time as licensing. Although we do not yet know the detailed components and requirements that will comprise full revalidation and recertification, it is known that the processes are likely to involve a retrospective analysis of the previous five years of professional activity. The elements within recertification are to include:

- CPD activity and performance of individual doctors
- departmental accreditation
- individual professional performance review.

The article 'Revalidation: where are we now?' by Professor Dodds in the March 2008 issue of the *Bulletin* summarises what is currently known about what is going to be reviewed and by whom. A key element of the whole process will be the presentation of evidence

that CPD has not just been performed but that it has also been effective. Examples could include the completion of e-Learning sessions, reading of CPD journal articles and a record of MCQ activity. Integral to all this is the need to ensure that both core and specialist knowledge/skills relevant to an individual's job plan are maintained and covered by an effective rolling programme of self-directed revision.

e-LA and CEACCP/BJA

Over the past 12 months e-LA has been working with Oxford University Press and the BJA Board to make available articles published in both the *British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA)* and *Continuing Education in Anaesthesia, Critical Care,*

and Pain (CEACCP) via the e-LA learning management system (LMS). All articles from CEACCP are now accessible in the e-Library section of the LMS. Users can browse the table of contents by year/month or search for specific articles using key words. No additional passwords are required to view, print or download the full text pdf of each article. Articles are also being indexed by reference to the anaesthetic curriculum, specific sub-specialties and the appropriate level of training or practice. For example all CEACCP articles relating to obstetric anaesthesia and appropriate for ST1/2 trainees will appear under the e-Library Block 4 section which covers obstetrics, paediatrics and anaesthesia for the elderly (Figure 1). Access to and time spent reading an article are recorded on the LMS and can be used as evidence of appropriate CPD activity for appraisal and revalidation.

e-LA and on-line MCQs

Following agreement reached with the BJA Board and OUP in January of this year, e-Learning Anaesthesia also now hosts the MCQ questions drawn from CEACCP that accompany each CPD article (Figure 2).

For each edition of the journal, users of e-LA will be able to access and review each article followed by the set of related questions (Figure 3). The MCQs are initially presented as they would be in an assessment – without answers, explanation or feedback (Figure 4). Once the user is satisfied with the responses

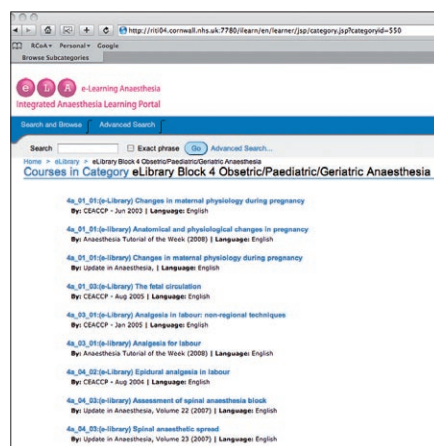
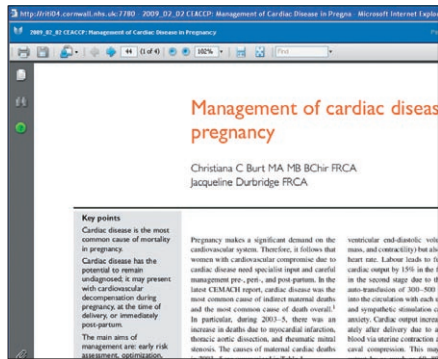


Figure 1
e-Library: mapping of articles to Anaesthesia Curriculum

Figure 2
Management of cardiac disease in pregnancy, CEACCP February 2009



they have made, the entire question set is submitted electronically for marking. As is currently the case in the journal, the pass mark is set at 80%. Answers and explanations are then available for review and reflection. The score achieved is recorded and the LMS can provide a certificate of performance for the individual as evidence of successful Specialist CPD activity. Combined with a log of e-Learning activity on the LMS this information can be used as formal evidence of an individual's commitment to maintaining good medical practice.

Articles and MCQs from each issue of 2009 are being made available at the same time as their release in the printed edition of CEACCP. Over the next six to 12 months the entire back catalogue of articles and related MCQs (2001–2008) will be available through e-LA to support CPD for consultants

and SAS anaesthetists. Additional CPD articles and MCQs from the *BJA* will also be available. The articles and related MCQs can be found in the e-Library section of e-LA under the heading 'e-Library CEACCP'.

e-LA and Core Topics

In line with the 'Core Topics' section in the RCoA CPD guidelines, we are developing this concept further by creating collections of articles relevant to core revision topics such as obstetrics, paediatrics, critical care and other sub-specialties and linking them to an online self-assessment session that combines all the MCQs from those articles (Figure 5). This will allow anaesthetists to undertake further on-line CPD and assessment on the 'core topics' most relevant to their everyday clinical practice and on-call commitments as part of their ongoing programme of self-directed revision.

Phase 2 and CPD

The plans for phase 2 of e-LA covering intermediate and higher training in anaesthesia were released in June 2009. The curriculum is being expanded into a further 12 clinical blocks to cover the key six sub-specialty units and the remaining general/additional units of training. The e-Library is being extended in parallel and articles relating to sub-specialties at these higher training levels will be indexed and made available in these e-Library blocks.

Summary

In summary, e-Learning Anaesthesia was conceived as a Learning Portal to support both training and continuing professional development for ALL anaesthetists. The online CPD sessions being built into e-LA are designed to deliver the following tools to support specialist appraisal and recertification.

- Mandatory modules of training (e.g. child protection material for 'Safeguarding Children').
- e-Library access to expert CPD material published by CEACCP and BJA.
- Sub-specialty collections of relevant CPD articles and related self-assessment MCQs.
- A personal record of Specialist CPD activity and performance on College approved MCQ questions.

e-Learning in the NHS continues to develop, expand and be accepted as the way forward. As we discover new ways that e-Learning can and should be used, further resources to support consultants in their role as trainers and for revalidation are being added.

e-Learning Anaesthesia has been available to all UK anaesthetists from **January 2009**.

If you are a consultant, an SAS anaesthetist, or a trainee and you have not already done so, please register for access to e-LA at **www.e-LA.org.uk**.

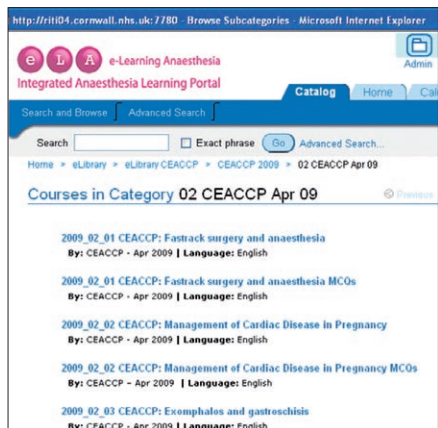


Figure 3
CEACCP (April 2009) showing articles and linked MCQs

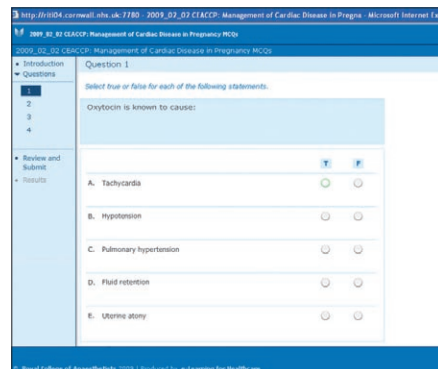


Figure 4
Example question related to the article in Figure 2

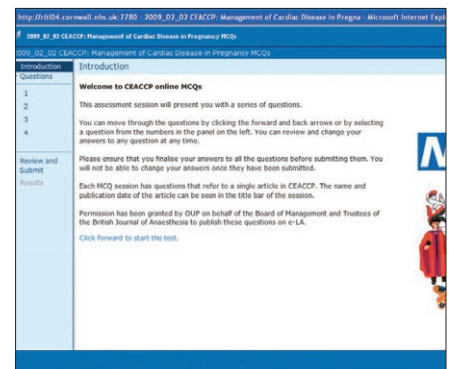


Figure 5
Core Topic MCQs: obstetric anaesthesia