



INTERFACE COMMITTEE IN CLEFT LIP AND PALATE SURGERY

AN OUTLINE OF INTERFACE TRAINING IN CLEFT LIP AND PALATE SURGERY

1. It is expected that there will be approximately one trainee per annum. Depending on the need there may be two trainees in a particular year.

The training is expected to last 2 years in Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery after the trainee has completed in the generality of their surgical discipline (otolaryngology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, plastic surgery or paediatric surgery). In some cases trainees who commenced the programme having already undertaken substantial Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery could be signed off early if they were able to demonstrate that they had satisfactorily achieved the necessary competencies. The Interface Group has agreed that some estimation of the length of training should initially be given at the appointments interview after inspection of logbook and references. The final length of training would be determined by the RITA review. Trainees will need to hold a Type I number or a CCST and have obtained the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in their parent SAC defined surgical specialty prior to taking up a year 5-6 post in Cleft Lip and Palate surgery.

2. The training programme will be individualised for each trainee depending on their previous training and experience, to ensure that the trainee receives training that will enable them to undertake all aspects of cleft lip and palate surgery. Trainees may take part in the general on-call rota for their parent specialty.
3. Only those trainees who hold an NTN/VTN will be eligible for appointment to these posts. The appointment will be by a competitive process. Trainees from any of the SAC defined specialties as identified in paragraph 1 can apply. The panel should be made up of the Lead Dean, or his representative, and include representatives from the three specialties who would normally be drawn from the Interface Group. The panel would be co-chaired by the Chairman of the Interface Group
4. Trainees will train in centres recognised as fulfilling the criteria as laid down in the Cleft Implementation Group framework document. These will be multi-disciplinary centres with input from oral and maxillofacial surgeons, plastic surgeons and otolaryngologists. Ultimately the centres will be staffed by cleft surgeons fully trained in hard and soft tissue surgery.
5. The centres will apply in open competition for an advanced trainee.

6. The successful candidate(s) will take their NTN/VTN with them (if appropriate, see Paragraph 1), but not the associated funding, when appointed to an advanced training post in Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery. They will stay at the cleft centre at the end of their advanced training, until appointed to a consultant post.
8. It is important, therefore, that the Training Interface Group is aware of possible retirements, new posts etc. that are likely to occur through close liaison with the Cleft Monitoring Group over manpower issues.
9. It is desirable that up to six months of the two year training period is spent in another unit or overseas. This period of training must be prospectively approved by the Training Interface Group.
10. The Training Interface Group will consist of two representatives from each of the following SACs (otolaryngology, oral and maxillofacial surgery and plastic surgery) with an independent Chairman.
11. It will be the responsibility of the Training Interface Group to:
 - Approve training centres;
 - Select and appoint the trainee(s). The appointment will be made on an annual basis (as necessary), centrally, by a competitive process with representation from the Lead Postgraduate Dean;
 - Design the training programme(s) to meet the needs of each trainee;
 - Assess the trainee(s) at regular intervals during the two year period;
 - Complete the RITA process with the involvement of the Lead Postgraduate Dean;
 - Determine when each trainee has satisfactorily completed their training and advise to the parent SAC.

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