**Newsletter for General Surgery Trainees with a Vascular Interest**

**Transfers from the 2010 General Surgery Curriculum to the 2013 Vascular Surgery Curriculum:**

**TRANSFER DEADLINE DAY - 01 mARCH 2015**

**Information for Trainees**

Important points:

1. If you are intending to apply for transfer from the general surgery programme to vascular surgery please note that **1 March 2015** is the deadline for applications.
2. If you wish to stay on the 2010 curriculum with a subspecialty interest in vascular surgery (beyond 31 December 2015) you must complete [Form 1](http://www.jcst.org/key-documents/Form1remainingonGScurriculumto311218.doc). If you do not submit this by **1 March 2015**, you will, by default move to the 2013 curriculum for General Surgery.
3. **A return to the General Surgery programme will not be possible once transfer has occurred.**

This guidance has been produced to support the transition from General Surgery to Vascular Surgery for appropriate trainees (those appointed before 1 January 2013 and with a CCT date after 31 December 2018).

It is important to note that transfers to vascular surgery are managed locally initially, requiring completion of the appropriate forms. There must be local capacity to deliver both the vascular and radiology training.

If you are applying for transfer to a vascular programme your application will be considered by the Transition group who will determine whether there is sufficient reason for the transfer and at what level you will be placed in the vascular programme.

**General Principles**

* Trainees need to be made aware that transfer is **not** an automatic right.
* For a transfer to take place there needs to be the capacity in the vascular programme and agreement from the local radiology training departments to provide that aspect of the curriculum for the additional trainee(s).
* Trainees who wish to be considered for transfer should discuss this with both the general surgery and vascular surgery TPD in their LETB. If the programme directors believe that a transfer would be appropriate then the trainee should complete the relevant application forms and return them to JCST.
* The Vascular TPD should decide if there is sufficient capacity within the vascular programme to accommodate the trainee and sign the trainee’s application form appropriately.
* If there is no capacity but transfer is deemed appropriate by the Transition Group the latter will try and identify another programme that does have the capacity to take the trainee. If a slot cannot be found then the trainee will need to move to the 2013 General Surgery Curriculum.
* All Transition applications must also be signed by the lead radiologist for vascular training within the LETB. This is not necessarily the TPD for radiology. You should arrange this with your vascular TPD who will need to discuss this with the lead radiologist for vascular training.
* Trainees are strongly discouraged from extending their CCT date beyond 31 December 2018 in order to allow potential transfer to the vascular curriculum. It is anticipated that this could lead to a bulge of CCT holders competing for consultant posts in 2020-2022. Conversely, if a trainee gets their CCT earlier, it is anticipated that there will be more job opportunities available at that time. In order to avoid extending the CCT date trainees should be advised to:
1. defer an OOPE or OOPT until after their CCT date.
2. only undertake a research post that should lead to a higher degree e.g. MD or PhD. A summary of the research project should be approved by the general and vascular TPDs and be submitted to the Transition group (JCST) with the completed application forms ([Form 2](http://www.jcst.org/key-documents/Form2OOPapplication.doc) & [Form 3](http://www.jcst.org/key-documents/Form3transfertoVScurriculum.doc) for this route) for transition. You should consider whether the research could be done post CCT.

**Categories of Trainees Eligible to Apply for Transfer**

These are:

1. Academic run through trainees, appointed before 01 January 2013, whose CCT date

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1. Scottish run-though trainees, appointed before 01 January 2013, whose CCT date is after 31 December 2018
2. Trainees who take statutory leave e.g. military, maternity and sickness, appointed before 01 January 2013[[1]](#footnote-1)
3. Trainees appointed before 01 January 2013 who complete OOPRs, or exceptionally an OOPT/E
4. ACLs with CCT dates around 2018 who have flexibility to extend training. They should be advised that if they transfer then they may need to extend their CCT date further in order to do the extra time required to complete the 2013 Vascular Curriculum.

There may be other categories of trainees who wish to extend their training beyond 31 December 2018 in order to change to the Vascular Surgery curriculum and/or because they are taking time out for OOPE and OOPT. These should be managed robustly and encouraged to undertake the time out (OOP) post CCT.

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We have amended our forms for this process to make them clearer and easier to use; they are available from the JCST website: -

[**Form 1**](http://www.jcst.org/key-documents/Form1remainingonGScurriculumto311218.doc): should be used for trainees who are remaining on the 2010 General Surgery curriculum to certification but who are declaring a vascular sub-specialty interest. It will need to be signed by the trainee, General Surgery TPD and Head of School.

[**Form 2**](http://www.jcst.org/key-documents/Form2OOPapplication.doc): should be used by trainees who are currently remaining on the 2010 General Surgery curriculum to certification but who subsequently apply for an OOPR (or exceptionally OOPE/OOPT) that would extend training beyond 31 December 2018. This form will need to be completed by the trainee and the Vascular Surgery TPD or General Surgery TPD. Once the trainee is has entered OOPR (or exceptionally OOPE/OOPT), they will also need to complete Form 3 in order for their starting level to be decided by the Transition Group prior to their entry into the Vascular Programme.

[**Form 3**](http://www.jcst.org/key-documents/Form3transfertoVScurriculum.doc): should be used by trainees transferring from the General Surgery curriculum to the Vascular Surgery curriculum. This form should be completed by the trainee and as appropriate the relevant General Surgery TPD, Vascular Surgery TPD, Radiology Lead and Dean/Head of School. The trainee must also list and include evidence, verified by their General Surgery TPD so the Transition Group can decide on the appropriate level for them to enter the Vascular Surgery programme.

In order to assist trainees with completing these forms we have published a list of the General Surgery TPDs and the Vascular Surgery TPDs, available on the JCST website: <http://www.jcst.org/committees/training-programme-directors-tpds-1>.

If you have any queries for the transition group or questions regarding the transition process, please contact Megan Wilson (mawilson@jcst.org).

Kind regards,

Michael Gough
**Chair, General/Vascular Surgery SAC Liaison Group**

1. The decision about what level a trainee will go into after OOPR or statutory leave will be made by the transition group and trainees should be aware that this may extend their CCT date further i.e. they may ‘go back’ a year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)