



ANNUAL JCST FEE – TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY TRAINEES

The 3 Surgical Colleges of the UK have considered representations from the British Orthopaedic Trainees Association (BOTA) about payment of the JCST fee by T and O trainees appointed to programmes since 2007.

The GMC is responsible for regulating postgraduate training. It requires the Colleges – working through the JCST – to support surgical training in a number of ways. The tasks include enrolling and monitoring trainees and making recommendations for CCT; developing, maintaining, updating and delivering the curriculum and the online training management system; and supporting national quality assurance and local quality management processes.

A fee was introduced in 2008 to cover all of this work and has remained at £125 per annum since then. It is not, as it is sometimes perceived to be, a fee solely for use of the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (ISCP), which (incorporating OCAP) is the curriculum formally approved by the GMC for surgical trainees. It is payable annually by all trainees appointed to programmes since 2007 and is a prerequisite for enrolment with the JCST. Unless trainees are enrolled and are up-to-date with annual payments, the JCST cannot recommend them to the GMC when they are ready for the award of the CCT.

The 3 UK Colleges made it clear from the outset that T and O trainees would be required to pay the fee, and there was an agreement that it would support the use of OCAP by T and O trainees from ST3 onwards. Since 2009 the Colleges have also devoted significant resources to integrating OCAP within the ISCP. While some T and O trainees have paid, however, others have not. We are aware that there has been significant confusion in some areas and that some trainees have – for reasons beyond our control – received conflicting messages.

Having taken the above into account, at the 19 July Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting the Colleges took the following decisions:

- All T and O trainees appointed since 2007 will be required to pay the fee for 2010-11 and for all future years while they remain in training;
- Exceptionally, the JCST will not pursue payments pre-dating 2010-11, provided that the 2010-11 fees are paid by 7 November 2011.

Trainees who choose not to pay will not be enrolled with the JCST. This means that the JCST will not be able to monitor their training and consequently will not be able to make recommendations for CCT. Such trainees are therefore likely to have to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR). The current GMC fee for the initial CESR process is £1,600.

Please note that the information in this statement does not apply to SpRs appointed before 2007. As previously announced, trainees in this group who choose to use the online training management system will be required to pay the fee, but those who do not wish to do so may complete assessments on paper and will not be required to pay.

David Tolley
President
RCS Edinburgh
August 2011

Norman Williams
President
RCS England

Ian Anderson
President
RCPS Glasgow